

Orange Preserves

To preserve and enhance the unique Old Towne Orange area through education, communication and community involvement.

2008

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT
Bob Hitchcock**

**VICE PRESIDENT
Diana Zdenek**

**SECRETARY
Janet Crenshaw**

**TREASURER
Eric Woolery**

**PAST PRESIDENT
Tom Loughrey**

**FUND DEVLPMNT.
Patty Ricci**

**EDUCATION/
RESEARCH
Becky Glos**

**PRESERVATION
Jeff Frankel**

**COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT
Sue Vaurs**

**MEMBERSHIP
Michelle Murphy**

**COMMUNICATION
Dennis Caldwell**

Why Preservation Matters

Why preserve old buildings and neighborhoods? It's a question with several answers.

To begin with, we preserve them simply because they're great to look at. Older buildings and houses are a feast for the eye, a welcome diversion from the glass - and - steel jungle that has overtaken too many of our surrounding communities. There is an undeniable feeling of reverence for the

neighborhood when the buildings have the respect of their inhabitants. Author Judith Waldhorn has called them "a gift to the street"--a gift of beauty, texture, variety and detail that our communities need badly. Besides that, they work. Recent reuse projects have shown that old buildings can function in ways their original builders never dreamed of, and the pride of living in and owning an historic structure

in the District is well known to us all. Overall, it should be in the public interest to preserve the cultural, economic, social, aesthetic and environmental legacy of a town for the future.

Preserved buildings and neighborhoods attract tourists. According to travel expert Arthur Frommer, "Tourism simply doesn't go to a city that has lost its soul." What

See Preservation, page 4

President's Message

By Bob Hitchcock
OTPA PRESIDENT

After a few years off, I am glad to be back as the President of your OTPA Board of Directors. We are lucky to live in Orange and be able to have the Old Towne experience every day. We also have the good fortune to have a really talented Board to work with in 2008. This Board has a great mix of veterans and new folks, bringing

knowledge, experience and energy to the organization.

Your Board's main focus for 2008 will be to expand and increase our efforts to inform all the residents of Old Towne about the benefits and responsibilities of living in the largest Historic District west of the Mississippi! We are making some changes to achieve that objective. The first thing I would like to mention is this newsletter. I am sure you will agree that the newsletter has lots of

useful and interesting information. To make sure that the newsletter stays meaningful, we are going to publish it quarterly.

Additionally, we are going to send the newsletter to all of the residents of the Historic District. We hope to have a bigger and better Preservation Awards Event this year. The event will have a new format and a new location. Changes have

See President, page 4

An official publication of the Old Towne Preservation Association, Inc.

Editor: Dennis Caldwell

Layout and Design: Elisabeth Deffner

March/ April/ May 2008

OTPA General Meetings

All Meetings will be held
7-8:45 p.m. in the Orange Public
Library and History Center's
Community Room--the exception
being the Candidates Forum,
slated for September.
Location for this event will be
announced at a future date.

Happenings Around Town

March 19 – OTPA General Meeting, 7 p.m., Orange
Public Library and History Center.

*Dan Ryan, Orange City Planner, will discuss the "On
the House" plan for Old Towne Projects for
calendar period March 31 through May 2008.*

May 10 – Old Towne Preservation Association's Annual
Preservation Awards Dinner, 5 p.m., The Woman's
Club.

May 21 – OTPA General Meeting, 7 p.m., Orange
Public Library and History Center.
"Library Archives and Preservation On- Line."

June 8 – Ice Cream Social, 1:30 - 4 p.m., Pitcher Park.

July 16 – OTPA General Meeting, 7 p.m., Orange Public
Library and History Center.
"Open Forum."

September 17 – Candidates Forum. Location TBA.

November 19 – OTPA General Meeting, 7 p.m., Orange
Public Library and History Center.
"Workshop Panel."

January 21 – OTPA General Meeting, 7 p.m., Orange
Public Library and History Center.
Annual meeting with Board elections.

Membership News

OTPA extends a warm
welcome to its newest
members:

**Stephen & Wendy
Bennett**

**Shawn Buckley
Naomi Coe**

**John Pagenkopp
the Schaffer family**

Richard Sherman

Kim Swistok, and

**Russell & Tanya
Thompson.**

Glory Johnson is our
newest Life Member.

March membership dues
renewals are in the mail. If
you joined OTPA between
Dec. 2006 and May 2007,
your membership dues are
due by the end of March.
Watch your mailbox for your
renewal notice!

Did you know that you
may now pay your dues
online? We are using PayPal
on our website to accept
major credit cards for dues
payment. Visit us at
www.otpa.org to see how
easy it is to do.

The Orange Public Library & History Center is pleased
to offer two May workshops geared toward promoting
and preserving the history of the City of Orange.
"Preserving Your Photographs" will teach participants
how to best identify, store, and display their photographs.
"Researching the History of Your House" will be a
starting point for local home owners to learn more about
their homes. Space is limited. Interested participants must
sign up in the History Center (2nd floor of the Orange
Public Library & History Center) or call (714) 288-2465.

"Preserving Your Photographs"
Rotary Room, Orange Public Library & History Center
Tuesday, May 20, 6 – 7 p.m.

"Researching the History of Your House"
History Center (2nd floor),
Orange Public Library & History Center
Tuesday, May 27, 6 – 7 p.m.

**It's almost spring, but we've already been
cleaning up! Take a peek at our updated
website and let us know your thoughts or if
there's something you'd like to see added.
Email us at info@otpa.org.**



Preserves

Proposed Wireless Site at City Hall

The City of Orange, in conjunction with T-Mobile, is proposing two stealth wireless antenna sites to be located on the west side adjacent to the City Hall building on S. Grand Street. All similar past proposed projects of this nature located within the Historic District have been discouraged. Nevertheless, as of this writing, this proposed project is in the process of being reviewed by the Design Review Committee (DRC).

The DRC continued the project, consisting of two stealth flag poles 60 feet high and 14 inches in diameter, non-tapered (see photo at right), until the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) responds to our submitted comments, which include a request for the required SHPO Section 106 review. There are also California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) concerns.

In our opinion, the exemption asserted by the City and T-Mobile does not apply to this project and, therefore, CEQA requirements must be enforced.

OTPA's position is that this project will have a visually adverse impact on the district and wireless providers need to come up with a better solution for their coverage needs in sensitive areas. In addition, this project is subject to state review that it has not yet received.

The City of Orange seems to be pushing this project because of the substantial revenue these installations generate. It is our understanding that the new library tower was supposed to house these wireless facilities but the deal somehow fell through. This option may need to be re-visited as the current proposal has a significant impact on our Historic District. We understand the need for our city to seek alternative methods of generating additional revenue, but it should not be at the District's expense. A more acceptable alternative needs to be explored.



Example of stealth flagpole. Two of these, side-by-side, are proposed.

**Preservation, continued from page 1:
Benefits make impact in various arenas**

visitors want is the sense of being Someplace, not just Anyplace. They don't want to visit communities that are a hodgepodge of cookie-cutter housing tracts, cluttered commercial strips, and bleak downtowns, but they flock to places like Old Towne Orange that have preserved their historic character and saved their soul.

Perhaps the most important reason for saving old buildings is illustrated in a statement by John Ryskin: "Architecture is to be regarded by us with the most serious thought. We may live without her and worship without her, but we cannot remember without her." We save old buildings because we need to preserve the marks left on our national landscape by the many people who have shaped it. We need our collective memory. Preservation strengthens a partnership that makes for orderly growth and change in our communities: the perpetual partnership among the past, the present and the future. This dynamic

partnership encourages each generation to utilize the best of contemporary thought and technology without rejecting the history, culture, traditions and values on which our lives and our futures are built. When it's allowed to work as it's supposed to, this partnership shapes the sense of continuity that art historian Sigfried Giedion says is "part of the very backbone of human dignity."

We should not overlook the economic benefits as well. Preservation and rehabilitation, in the long run, save money. Building materials and construction methods used on historic buildings would be extremely costly today which would make construction of a comparable structure financially infeasible. Every day, the downtown business district draws hundreds of employees, visitors, citizens, all of whom are potential customers for downtown merchants. Orange's historic buildings and houses have become popular locations for major films and television movies and commercials.

These production projects instill community pride and help boost the local economy. If you are ever in doubt as to the financial benefits of home ownership in the District, just ask one of your neighborhood realtors--their answer should bring a smile to your face. Additionally, the Property Tax incentives that are unique to living in this historic environment should not be understated, still more reasons to preserve and protect.

As for going "green," what is our environmental responsibility? Preservation protects and extends the environmental investment a community has already made in an existing building. Preservation eliminates the excessive waste of construction materials and resources. Rehabilitation reduces the cost of demolition and the impact on landfill space. Less energy and materials are needed for rehabilitation than for new construction, and this reduces the need for new construction materials whose production is costly to the environment. The act of demolition is

irreversible. No amount of community regret will ever bring back an historic structure once it has been demolished. We need to remember our place within this community; we are, after all, the current caretakers of this unique environment known as Old Towne. It is our responsibility to maintain and protect it for the next generations that will inhabit it. We need to look past our immediate self interests and help maintain the legacy of the past, for the future. This is a noble undertaking that we all can be proud of, and this is the objective of the Old Towne Preservation Association. It may not always be popular, but it will be acknowledged, in the long run, as having been the right thing to do. Why not help shape the future? Ask yourself and your neighbors if their home and their town are worth protecting. If the answer is yes, then ask them to join us in this effort. We guarantee it will be rewarding, and it can even be fun!

--The Editor

.....
President, continued from page 1:

Looking ahead to a productive year

already been made to you check out OTPA's website! I am sure you will find the website easy to use and we will do our best to see that it is filled with up to date and relevant information. I suggest that

you check out www.OTPA.org as soon as you can. And, of course, there are our General Meetings. This year all of our General Meetings will be at a new location. We believe that all

of the topics we have chosen for the meetings are pertinent to all Old Towne residents. You can find all of the meeting dates and subjects in this newsletter. As always, we welcome your suggestions

and input to make OTPA meaningful to you.

The Board looks forward to meeting as many residents of Old Towne as possible at OTPA's General Meetings and other events in 2008.



Preserves

City Offers Design Standards Workshop

The City of Orange Planning Division will conduct a workshop on Wednesday, May 28, on the evolution of the Old Towne Design Standards. It will provide a review of the effectiveness of various editions of the standards, and introduce the public to the Planning Division's Old Towne Design Standards update effort. The discussion will include a review of Old Towne projects spanning the years the

Standards have been in place, and also insights from past members of the City's Design Review Board/Committee and the City's Historic Preservation Planner related to application of the Standards.

The workshop will be held at the Community Room of the Orange Public Library & History Center, 7 - 8:45 p.m. Information: Dan Ryan, Historic Preservation Planner, dryan@cityoforange.org or (714) 744-7224.

Appropriate Materials

Whether you are planning an addition or renovation, or just building a fence, the city's design standards apply, and state that you must utilize in kind or appropriate materials.

For example, when building a fence, per the design standards, your choices would be wood, metal, or masonry, depending on the period and style of your home. Contrary to popular belief, vinyl is not an appropriate material for fencing and is not allowed, just as it is not appropriate for siding replacement, windows, or any other feature of an historic property. Remember windows and doors (including garage) require a permit and must be constructed of wood (although some style homes did utilize steel frame window casements).

The policy with any material is that unless it has deteriorated beyond repair, it should be restored or repaired. If the material is deteriorated to the point that it is in need of replacement, then it must be

replaced with in-kind materials matching existing material, design, texture, and color.

Always consult the city's historic preservation planner regarding materials to be used for your project even if it does not require a permit, as you are still bound by the city's design standards and The Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation, which are adopted city ordinance. The city's design standards are available at www.otpa.org or www.cityoforange.org/depts/c o m m d e v / old_towne_information.asp.

Our goal is to encourage owners of historic properties to maintain the exterior appearance and preserve the architectural and character-defining features of all contributing structures in our unique community, and the use of appropriate (in-kind) materials is paramount.

As always, please contact us through our (updated) website with any questions.

If Walls Could Talk...

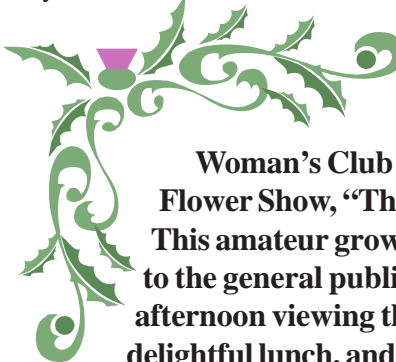
Either by design or accident, memorabilia can occasionally pop up in the most unexpected places. Who knows what's hiding up in a corner of the attic, down in the dusty basement, or in some cases, behind a wall?

Recently a Victorian woman's shoe was found resting comfortably on a redwood joist between the redwood shiplap siding and the lath and plaster wall in an 1886 S. Orange Street home currently undergoing a much anticipated front porch restoration under the direction and skillful hand of the well known historical contractor and long time Old Towne resident, John L. Turner. How this shoe became entombed within the wall is not known, but from its location, it appears to have been placed there deliberately. Despite a soft layer of 122-year-old dust, the shoe is in remarkable condition. It is nicely constructed and measures five and three quarter inches in length. The hand stitching and stylish design suggest the elegance of the day. Could it have been worn



by Mrs. Leavenworth when she accompanied her husband to Orange from Palmyra, New York, or could it have been purchased at one of the well established mercantile stores on Glassell St.? Perhaps it was placed there as a sign of good luck by builders or the first residents, or stashed away by a playful child. We will never know the real answer, but as work progresses, we will happily add this to the already discovered hand-forged square nails, half smoked cigar, and shards of broken pottery.

If you have found an interesting item in your home, send us an email and a photo. We would love to share your discovery with your neighbors in the next newsletter.



OTPA is proud to announce its sponsorship of the

Woman's Club of Orange's 71st Annual Flower Show, "Through the Garden Gate." This amateur growers' competition is open to the general public. Spend an enjoyable afternoon viewing the flowers, having a delightful lunch, and purchasing flowers. The event will be Thursday, March 27, noon - 6 p.m. at the Clubhouse, 121 S. Center Street in Old Towne. Admission free. Information: (714) 904-9885.



Orange Preserves

FIRST CLASS MAILING

Save the Dates

Saturday, May 10, 5-10 p.m.
Annual Preservation Awards Dinner

“**Preserving History**” is the theme of this year’s event. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. at The Woman’s Club, a 1925 Spanish Colonial Revival, with a no-host cocktail hour. This community event honors individuals and business owners who have restored and preserved their historic property in a way that maintains its historic value.

The evening includes presentation of the awards, a buffet dinner, door prizes, and dancing to a DJ until 10 p.m.

Per person price is \$35 in advance. Purchase tickets on-line through the OTPA website, www.otpa.org, or by calling (714) 639-6840. Per person price at the door is \$40.

Access home nomination forms through the OTPA website.

OTPA Hotline:
(714) 639-6840

www.OTPA.org

Sunday, June 8, 1:30 - 4 p.m.
Ice Cream Social at Pitcher Park

Come and enjoy an old-fashioned root beer float or ice cream cone, compliments of your friends at OTPA. The Pitcher family, who had owned the property since 1912, donated Pitcher Park to the city in 1988. The old barn, honey house and historic vehicles, artifacts, and family memorabilia remain.