

Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society

Founded 1974



Newsletter

Fall 2003

www.SantaAnaHistory.com

Historic Santa Ana Church Enters New Era After Sale of Property

Another page in history was turned recently when Santa Ana First Christian Church, one of the early churches to be founded in Santa Ana, sold the property that it has owned for 50 years to the Rancho Santiago Community College District.

The church first met on January 30, 1876 with H.R. Wiley, B.F. Coulter, and Reverend Doctor Carroll Kendrick as the first preachers. The church first met in homes, then later at Latimer Hall at 4th and Bush, where official organization took place on June 5, 1881.

In 1887 a church building was erected at the corner of Birch and 6th. By 1908 the congregation had outgrown the “little white church,” and a new church, built at the corner of 6th and Broadway, was dedicated on May 1, 1910. This fine arts and crafts style building has been featured in many historic Santa Ana postcards. The church was remodeled several times and buildings were added to the church complex as the congregation grew. In 1950 a debate regarding whether to again remodel the church or build in a different location was settled when the site was chosen to be part of the grounds of the new Santa Ana and Orange County Civic Center.

In 1953 the church purchased the three acre tract at the corner of College and Seventeenth Street, and the property held by the church on 6th Street between Birch and Broadway was sold to the County of Orange. At that time, the Seventeenth and College property could be considered to be on the edges of town. Ground broke for the building of the new sanctuary on March 5, 1955, and on November 6, 500 people gathered for the laying of the cornerstone, which included enclosure of a time capsule within it. The first service in the new modern sanctuary was held on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1956.

Many prominent Santa Ana citizens have been members of the church over the years, including dentist A.M. Menges, who once had his office on the second floor of French’s Opera House; Civil War veteran, district attorney, and later judge Horace C. Head; and Nylin Hurd, long time church member and contractor for the current building,

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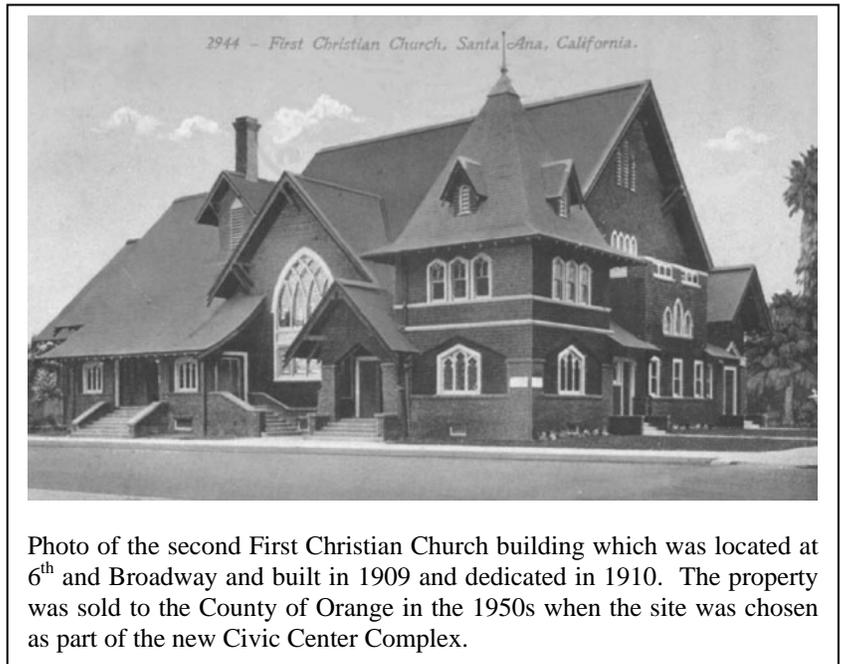


Photo of the second First Christian Church building which was located at 6th and Broadway and built in 1909 and dedicated in 1910. The property was sold to the County of Orange in the 1950s when the site was chosen as part of the new Civic Center Complex.

President's Message

As SAHPS approaches next year's 30th anniversary it is interesting to reflect on the origins of our group. Lead by founder Adeline Walker in 1975, the newly formed Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society moved the Dr. Howe-Waffle House to its present location to save it from demolition. Countless volunteer hours and donations went into the loving restoration of the House, and community members saw and felt first-hand the history of Santa Ana.

How can you participate in Orange County history today? Here are just a few ways:

- **Lease a Part of History!** The house and grounds of this beautiful Victorian are available for special events such as weddings, seminars, receptions, and meetings. We have competitive rates with discounts for members and non-profits, and can accommodate groups of up to 100.
- **Increase Our Membership!** Membership in SAHPS is open to all who are interested in history, regardless of where they live. Invite friends and neighbors to become members, and consider renewing at a higher level next year.
- **Participate in SAHPS Events!** The Society sponsors events throughout the year, including our popular annual Historic Cemetery Tour of Fairhaven Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery. Attend the Tour, visit the Dr. Howe-Waffle House, or better yet, volunteer to help with planning or working at one of our events.
- **Shop in Our Gift Shop!** SAHPS has a wonderful collection of books, pamphlets, note cards and more, available for purchase.
- **Visit our Website!** Our outstanding website at www.SantaAnaHistory.com contains a wealth of information about Santa Ana and Orange County history, local events, and links to other interesting sites.
- **Donate to the Society!** SAHPS is responsible for restoring and maintaining the Dr. Howe-Waffle House. As an all-volunteer, non-profit organization we are always in need of financial gifts and grants, as well as donations of time and services, and artifacts and memorabilia for our collections. We look forward to hearing from you.

Alison Young



The Dr. Willella Howe-Waffle House,
Medical Museum, and Carriage Barn.
Built 1889. Saved from demolition 1975.

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The *Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society Newsletter* is produced by the Society for its members and other friends. We invite you to join us in the appreciation and preservation of Santa Ana History. The Society is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff members.

All material in this issue is copyrighted 2003 by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. Our main headquarters is at 120 Civic Center Dr. West, Santa Ana, CA 92701. Our house phone and message line is (714) 547-9645.

Newsletter Editor: Roberta Reed

House logo by Ann Berkery

Special thanks to Guy Ball, Jo Ann Ramirez, and Alison Young.

Visit our website at

www.SantaAnaHistory.com

To contact the newsletter editor directly, please call Roberta Reed at (714) 953-1876 or e-mail at robertareed@sahps.org.

2003 Cemetery Tour: That's Entertainment OC Style

Has SAHPS become star struck? Or maybe stage struck? Not exactly, but Hollywood, entertainment, and history have all been on our minds these days.

The theme for the 6th Annual Historical Cemetery Tour is "That's Entertainment OC Style." The event will take place at Fairhaven Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery on Saturday, October 25th from 10 am to 3 pm.

The tour explores Orange County's ties to the entertainment industry, and will feature stories about some of the entertainment-connected personas whose final resting place became Santa Ana. Orange County's ties to entertainment date back as far as the 1880s when famous Shakespearean actress Madame Helena Modjeska, an Orange County resident, performed at the opening of French's Opera House in Santa Ana. Tour guides will entertain their visitors with fascinating stories about actors and actresses who starred with the likes of Spencer Tracy, Katherine Hepburn, Buster Keaton, and Abbott and Costello.

A strong connection to the movie industry can also be found in Orange County. Leo Fender and Francis Hall, who helped make music what it is today, are part of Orange County's past. And while the world knows John Raitt and Bonnie Raitt for their contributions to music, many in Orange County past and present are more familiar with Raitt's Dairy, owned by Grandfather Raitt. The event, directed by Geoffrey Gread and Amy Weisman, is produced in partnership with STAGES theatre's WRITERSbloc and Musical Youth Artist Repertory Theatre (MYART), and is sponsored by Fairhaven Memory Park. Tours will depart every half hour. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors, and \$12 for students. Children 9 and under are free. Advanced tickets may be purchased up to October 20 at a \$2 discount by contacting the Society at (714) 547-9645 or through our website at *SantaAnaHistory.com*. If you received this newsletter, you will receive a discounted advance sale flyer in the mail within a few weeks.

Proceeds from the event benefit the preservation and educational activities of the Society, including maintenance of the Dr. Howe-Waffle House and Medical Museum.

One Broadway Plaza & Bulldog Update

The Broadway Bulldogs are hard at work again in trying to educate the public regarding the proposed One Broadway Plaza office building and parking garage. The proposed project, as you may recall, is a 37 story office building and 8 story parking garage planned to occupy the block between 10th and Washington, and Broadway and Sycamore. 545,124 square feet of office, retail, and restaurant space would be developed at the site. Some of the current buildings on the project site would be remodeled as part of the project, while other buildings would be demolished to make way for it.

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project was released on July 31st. Comments on the EIR are due back to the city by September 12th. Neighborhood meetings on the project were held on September 2nd and 3rd. The Planning Commission held a hearing on the project at their meeting on September 8th.

The Broadway Bulldogs and the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society are concerned with the affects that this project would have on our community, not just because of the effect that it would have on our historic structures, but because of the irreparable changes it would make to the community we call our home. We are not convinced that these changes would be positive beneficial to the common good of the community, as some claim. Negative impacts of this project, as identified in the EIR, include the following:

- Increase in traffic in excess of 6000 vehicle trips per day in the vicinity of the project.
- Potential increase in traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods (French Park, French Court, Willard, Floral Park, Washington Square, and West Floral Park).
- Increase in regional air pollution.
- Increased demand in police and fire services.
- Interference with transmission of television signals in the project area.
- Cast shadows on a significant portion of the surrounding area, much of which is residential.
- Removal of three historic homes on the Broadway Corridor which are all listed on the Santa Ana Historic Register.

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Broadway Bulldogs

(Continued from page 3):

- Irreparable change to the historic Broadway Corridor.

The mitigations to offset these impacts are significant, and in some cases, there were no mitigations identified to off-set the impacts.

Some of those are as follows:

- Washington and 10th streets would be converted to one way streets between Broadway and Main.
- A roundabout will be added to the intersection of Sycamore and 10th Streets.
- On street parking will be removed on Main Street between Civic Center and the I-5 freeway.
- A new traffic signal will be installed at Main and 15th Streets.
- A new traffic signal will be installed at Santa Ana Boulevard and French Streets.
- A new traffic signal will be installed at Sycamore and 15th Streets.
- The developer will pay up to \$200,000 per neighborhood for traffic impacts in the French Park, French Court, and Willard neighborhoods, but only if the traffic in those neighborhoods is proved to be directly attributed to the project, and if proposed traffic plans exceed \$200,000 in any of those neighborhoods, the city will be obligated to make up the difference in funding.
- Traffic impacts to Main Street between 1st and 17th Streets cannot be mitigated.
- Traffic impacts to Broadway between Santa Clara and 1st Streets cannot be mitigated.
- Traffic impacts at the intersection of Main and 17th Streets cannot be mitigated.
- Traffic impacts at the intersection of Broadway and 1st Streets cannot be mitigated.
- Traffic impacts at the intersection of Main and Washington Streets cannot be mitigated.
- Traffic impacts at the intersection of Broadway and 4th Streets cannot be mitigated.
- Traffic impacts at the intersection of 1st and Flower Streets cannot be mitigated.
- Traffic impacts at the intersection of Santa Ana Boulevard and Flower Street cannot be mitigated.
- Traffic impacts at the intersection of Fairview and 1st Streets cannot be mitigated.
- Increases in air pollution cannot be mitigated.

- Interference with television transmission cannot be mitigated.
- Impacts of the shading on other properties cannot be mitigated.

The demolition of three historic homes and the impact to aesthetics on the historic Broadway corridor will change the look of our city forever.

We believe that this project will have an impact on every person who lives and works in the city of Santa Ana. The California Environmental Quality Act requires that for any project that has environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level below significance, it must be determined that the benefits of the project outweigh the significance of these impacts. So far, we have not been able to determine what these significant benefits to the members of our community might be.

The City Council and the Planning Commission need to know that not all citizens in our city are in favor of this project. If you believe that approval of this project is not in the best interests of our city, we encourage you to write the City Council and tell them so. We are also circulating petitions to sign against the project.

Address your letter to Mayor Miguel Pulido or Councilmembers Brett Franklin, Lisa Bist, Mike Garcia, Alberta Christy, Jose Solorio, Claudia Alvarez. Their mailing address is:

City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza
Santa Ana, CA 92702

For more information, copies of the petition to circulate, and other materials, check out the Bulldogs website at www.broadwaybulldogs.com. You may also call the Society at (714) 547-9645 or sahps@sahps.org. We could use your help if you want to join!

Membership Up to Date?

Please check your mailing label. If it doesn't say Member 2003, please consider sending us your check for membership. Your help and support is needed as we enter our 30th year. There are lots of challenges coming up in the next year and we can't do it without your help. Remember, the Society has no paid staff. All of our activities are done by dedicated volunteers. When you look at all the activities we do, that's pretty amazing!

Please renew and please be extra generous when you do. Your help is always appreciated!

First Christian Church

(continued from page 1)

who also worked on the County Civic Center. Dr. Gerald Bash, who led the congregation for over 30 years, was also well known in community affairs in our city.

The church property has been eyed for many years for expansion of Santa Ana Community College. The congregation, led currently by Pastor Bob Kelly, has grown much smaller in recent years, and will continue to meet on the property for at least a few years. Eventually, all buildings on the site will be demolished to make way for progress, but for many of us, the memories will continue to live on forever in our hearts. Proceeds from the sale of the church property will go toward educational scholarships and planting of other churches.

The church has generously donated many items of its history to the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, including the ceremonial trowel from the 1955 groundbreaking, a turn-of-the-century Bible, and the cornerstones from both the 6th and Broadway and Seventeenth and College church buildings. The stained glass windows from the 1950s era sanctuary, many times the topic of one of Dr. Bash's famous sermons, and the stained glass windows from the 1909 sanctuary, which were incorporated into the chapel of the "new" church, have been removed from the buildings and are currently under the custodianship of the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society. It is the hope of both the church and the Society that these windows can be incorporated into new or remodeled construction in Santa Ana churches so that they may continue to live on in Santa Ana history. If you know of a church that might be interested, please do not hesitate to contact the Society at (714) 547-9645.

Entertainment Displays Wanted

Do you have an entertainment or music related collection? As part of this year's Cemetery Tour, the Society would like to feature displays related to the tour's theme, which is related to Hollywood, the entertainment industry, and the music industry. If you have something of this nature you would be willing to display at the tour, please contact Roberta Reed at (714) 953-1876 or via e-mail at robertareed@sahps.org.

Visit the Orange County Archives

Orange County history just got a boost in the right direction. Phil Brigandi recently became the Orange County Archivist, and the Orange County Archives are now open on a regular basis. Phil has strong roots in Orange County, and has been both a speaker and author on the topic of Orange County history. He's written several books, most recently *Orange, The City 'Round the Plaza*.

Among the records to be found in the archives are minutes of every Board of Supervisors meeting since Orange County came into being; the Great Register, which every new resident was required to sign upon arrival; assessor's records; aerial photos from the 1930s; and property records of unincorporated lands.

The Archives are located in the Old Orange County Courthouse and the hours are 9 am to noon and 1 to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. For information call (714)834-2536.

19th Century Bible Story Book Donated

The Society would like to thank Mr. Jeffrey Springfield for his recent donation of a Bible story book to the Society.

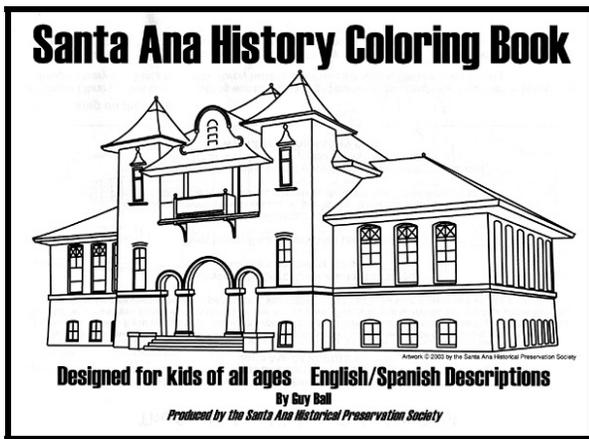
The book dates back to the late 19th century, and includes some beautiful full color plates that are truly treasures of art. It is also connected directly to the city of Santa Ana, as it once belonged to Lucy Greenleaf, a member of one of the founding families of our city.

The Society appreciates Mr. Springfield's generosity, and that he thought about the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society in his donation of this piece of Santa Ana History.

We sure could use...

- A plain-paper fax machine. New or used in good working condition.
- Gift cards to Staples/Office depot to help pay for office and mailing supplies.
- A digital video camcorder to help us record oral histories as we enter our 30th anniversary.

To donate, please call (714) 547-9645 or email sahps@sahps.org. Thanks!



History Coloring Book Created by Society

The Society has published a 12-page coloring and activity book with drawings and information about local buildings and other historical subjects. Created by author Guy Ball, the book has English and Spanish descriptions of 8 illustrations and includes two activity pages. The book design was mentored by two local teachers, Josie Castillo and Shirley Garcia, who helped keep the content to the desired 3rd grade level and helped with the Spanish translations. Artist Michael Fernandez created the drawings.

“Our intent was to make history fun for the kids, Guy noted. “SAHPS is committed to delivering all sorts of Living History programs to our local students as well as to our older residents. The board felt this was another great way to make history live to a younger audience!”

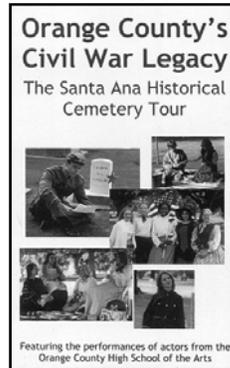
Copies of the book were distributed to some students in Santa Ana schools. Teachers reported that the books were extremely well received. Some report that they gave them away as incentives to good students, in part because they didn’t have enough copies for all the students.

Artwork and printing for a small run of the book was paid for by a HUD block grant. Donations for an extended print run are being sought to produce additional copies for all the elementary students in the school district.

If you’d like to help, contact Guy at guyball@sahps.org or by leaving a message at the SAHPS phone at (714) 547-9645. If you would like a copy of the book, send 3 first class stamps to cover shipping costs and we’ll send you one.

Get Your Copy! – Civil War Tour Video Now Available

The video version of the 2002 Civil War Historic Cemetery Tour is now available. This 25-minute video captures all the various performances of the event and includes closed-captioning for those who are hard of hearing to view and enjoy the tape.



The price is \$14.95 plus \$4 for shipping. Send your check for \$18.95 to SAHPS-Civil War Video; 120 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, California, 92701-7505. You may also use the order form at the end of the newsletter.

SAHPS would like to thank the following for their generosity

- The Santa Ana Kiwanis, Historic Heninger Park Neighborhood, and Floral Park Neighborhood for their donations for the closed-captioning of the Civil War Legacy Tour videotape.
- Molly Doughty for her donation toward the special Dr. Howe-Waffle postcard by artist John Carlyle.
- Caribou Industries for their donation towards the continued maintenance of the historic Spurgeon Clock Tower.
- Diane Enders for her donation of 2 Victorian chairs.
- Jeffrey Springfield for the Bible story book.
- Dick Pierce for his time and labor in repairing plaster damage due to a plumbing repair.
- Mike & Marlene Brajdic, Tim Rush, and Ben Grabel for their donations toward the reupholstery of an antique settee.
- Roy Brown and Brown Colonial Mortuary for their patron-level memberships.
- 3M Corporation and Unisys Corporation for their employee-designated donations.
- Rotary Club of Santa Ana North for their donation with the Civil War Legacy book program.

Learn about Santa Ana History through SAHPS

- *Rediscovering Historic Downtown Santa Ana* – Booklet and map. \$2.00 plus \$1.00 shipping.
- *Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana/Orange County – the Video*. This video documentary of the 2002 Santa Ana Historical Society Civil War Historical Cemetery Tour. \$14.95 plus \$4.00 shipping.
- *The Civil War Legacy in Santa Ana* by Gordon Bricken. Softcover book. \$12.75 plus \$2.00 shipping.
- *Santa Ana in Vintage Postcards* by Guy Ball. Softcover book. \$20.50 plus \$2.00 shipping.
- *Santa Ana...An Illustrated History* by Diann Marsh. Softcover book. \$21.50 plus \$4.50 shipping.
- *The History of Santa Ana City and Valley* Softcover book. \$14.00 plus \$2.00 shipping.
- *Frederick Eley, Orange County's Pioneer Architect* by Rob Richardson. Softcover book. \$7.00 plus \$2.00 shipping.
- *Orange Blossoms: 50 years of Growth in Orange* by John Sorenson. Hardcover book. \$40.00 plus \$6.40 shipping.
- *Dr. Howe-Waffle House Woven Bookmark* -. \$2 each, 6 for \$10, plus \$1 shipping (any quantity).

Book Order and Membership Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Qty	Title	Price
Subtotal		
Shipping		
Total		

Note: Sales tax is included in prices.

Membership Dues: Individual/Family - \$15-49; Business - \$20-99; Supporter - \$50-99;
Patron - \$100-249; Benefactor - \$250-1,000; Golden Honoree -- \$2,000 and above

If paying by credit card, please circle: Visa, Master Card, American Express.

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Send To: Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society, 120 Civic Center Dr. W. Santa Ana, CA 92701-7505

Save The Dates....

Saturday, October 25, 2003 -- That's Entertainment OC Style. The SAHPS Annual Historic Cemetery Tour is planned for Saturday, October 25. The theme for the event is the Hollywood connection in Orange County. As in past years, the Living History event will be held at Fairhaven Memorial Park and Santa Ana Cemetery and will feature performances by costumed actors. See page 3 for more information!

Saturday, October 11, 2003 -- The Washington Square Neighborhood Association hosts its third annual Fall Concert from 6-10 pm. This year's event features a "Saturday Night Fever" theme, complete with theme-appropriated decorations, live music performed by The Boogie Disciples and dinner available from a local restaurant. Table sales are \$25.00, seating 6-8. For more information, or to purchase tables, please contact Lynnette Verino at 835-0473 or mail your check and name to 1307 N. Towner, SA, 92706.

Saturday & Sunday, December 13 and 14, 2003 -- The Historic French Park Neighborhood Association is having a Holiday Home Tour from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Ten homes, built between 1888 and 1912, will be on tour and decorated for the holidays. Eastlake Victorian, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman Bungalow will be among the architectural types featured. Admission is \$20 in advance (by November 1) and \$25 at the door. Tickets may be ordered online at www.frenchpark.org or you may call (714) 569-0476.

Sunday, December 14 -- An 1898 Christmas Step back in time for a charming glimpse of holiday traditions from the turn of the century. Take an enchanting tour of the historic Kellogg House, fully decorated in Victorian holiday fashion. Enjoy a cup of steaming wassail a holiday favorite, join in crafts, and much more. Admission \$5.00 per person, children 3 yrs. and under are free. For additional information please call (714) 850-9452. Centennial Heritage Museum 3101 West Harvard Street Santa Ana, CA 92704



Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society
120 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92701-7505

***Celebrating our
30th anniversary
in 2004***

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