

# CONTINUITY

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*Preservation Action Council of San Jose*  
*Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural and Cultural Heritage*

Spring 2025

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## MACSA Youth Center Litter Cleanup

On Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, PAC\*SJ teamed up with BeautifySJ and SOMOS Mayfair for a litter cleanup day at the vacant MACSA (Mexican American Community Services Agency) Youth Center, a former community center for East San Jose residents on 660 Sinclair Drive.

Community service hours were available for students participation in the clean-up, although a parent was required to accompany those under 18.



Thirty volunteers showed up at 9 am. A group photo was taken in front of the

unique structure.

San Jose Councilmember Peter Ortiz attended, welcoming and thanking those who came to clean up the MACSA's spacious grounds. Councilmember Carl Salas also attended.

Board members who showed up to help were:

(Cont'd p.2)





## Litter Cleanup (Cont'd)

Mike Sodergren, Andre Luthard, Jennifer Hembree and Carl Foisey. PAC\*SJ Executive Director Ben Leech and Outreach Associate Matthew Massey, who coordinated the event, were also on hand to assist.

BeautifySJ provided all litter cleanup supplies including bags, gloves, vests, and pick-up tools. BeautifySJ is a city initiative to clean up and restore our San José community. The City of San José is committed to supporting residents in their efforts to beautify their neighborhoods and create a cleaner and more vibrant San Jose.

The MACSA Youth Center once served as an essential resource for East San Jose, offering programs that shaped countless young lives. For many years, it stood as a cornerstone for education, recreation, and community-building. Sadly, the center has since been abandoned, but its legacy still resonates in the community.

Included in PAC\*SJ's 2024 Endangered 8 list for its unique architecture and role as a once-prominent community center, this cleanup event was an opportunity to help maintain the site and ensure it remains clean and safe for the community.

The Youth Center stands in the Mayfair neighborhood, which was established in San Jose around 1900 and has always been home to working-class immigrant families. The neighborhood was also home to United Farm Worker founder Cesar Chavez, where he first learned how to organize communities. The first generation of Latino leadership during the 1960-70s Chicano Movement grew up in the Mayfair neighborhood.



*Jo Hogan and Russ Danielsen take a break from picking up trash.*

*(Cont'd p. 3)*



*Volunteers ready to clean up the litter on Feb. 8th at the former MACSA Youth Center.*

*(Photo: Matt Massey)*



## Litter Cleanup (Cont'd)

The site looked much improved after the hard work of the volunteers. The 56 bags of litter (2,960 pounds) were loaded into a large truck along with junk items too big for the bags.

Thank you to all the volunteers who opted to spend their Saturday morning helping our city look a bit better.

PAC\*SJ is grateful to the Alum Rock Union School District for allowing us to host this event at the site. We would also like to thank BeautifySJ and SOMOS Mayfair for partnering with us to bring this successful event to the community. 🐾



*Volunteers moving out the heavy, large junk on the MACSA site. (Photo: Matt Massey)*



*Bags of trash, a total of 56, stacked up ready to load on the truck.*

*(Photo: Matt Massey)*



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Please submit your letters/comments to  
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San Jose, CA 95113

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*PAC\*SJ is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization*



**1990-2025 CELEBRATING 35 YEARS**



*Councilperson Peter Ortiz welcomes the volunteers.*

*(Photo: Matt Massey)*



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# PAC\*SJ's Action-Packed 2024

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PAC\*SJ had a busy year in 2024! Here is a summary of our activities in advocacy, education and community engagement.

## Preservation Advocacy

- Saved the **Eiichi Sakauye Farmhouse** from demolition and helped negotiate its future relocation to History Park
- Successfully nominated **Grace Baptist Church** for protection as San Jose's 232<sup>nd</sup> City Landmark
- Supported the designation of the **Schiele Subdivision & Alameda Park City Historic District**, San Jose's first local designated district since 2009
- Celebrated the planned preservation of **Diridon Station** following four years of PAC\*SJ advocacy
- Received the **2024 President's Award for Advocacy** from the California Preservation Foundation for the former San Jose City Hall advocacy.

## Education

- Led neighborhood walking tours in **New Almaden, Vendome, Palm Haven, Schiele/Alameda Park**, and **Burrell Court**
- Hosted behind-the-scenes tours of the landmark **Ashworth-Remillard House** and **San Jose Fire Museum**
- Launched an online directory of San Jose City Landmarks at [preservation.org/city-landmarks](https://preservation.org/city-landmarks)
- Hosted author talks by Heather David and Ted Ramos at our **Westside Billiards** sign restoration fundraiser
- Distributed our 2024 primary and general election **Preservation Primer** candidate surveys

## Community Engagement

- Hosted a record six neighborhood rummage sales
- Co-hosted the Alviso King Tides bike ride, the Burrell Court Centennial Celebration, Levitt Pavilion's Concert in St. James Park, Creekside Social's Preservation and Rummage Fair, and Grace Baptist Church's Silent Film Night

What a successful and rewarding year. Here's to another preservation year in 2025! 🍷

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# Digital Billboard Project

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On February 25, the San Jose City Council voted unanimously to approve the Digital Billboard proposal for five large signs in downtown San Jose on four city property sites: Center for the Performing Arts, McEnery Convention Center, Market/San Pedro Street garage, and Second and San Carlos Street garage.

PAC\*SJ is disappointed especially because of the adverse impacts to a Candidate City Landmark, the Center for Performing Arts (CPA) built in 1972. At 60 feet wide by 15 feet tall, enclosed within an approximately 73-foot-wide by 50-foot-tall rectangle, the signs on two prominent corners of the CPA site will substantially block the public's primary view of the CPA, a significant architectural design by William W. Peters of Taliesin Associated Architects, a firm founded by Frank Lloyd Wright apprentices. The original existing freestanding sign, part of the original design on the corner of W. San Carlos St. and S. Almaden Boulevard, would be removed.

This project seems like an exploitation of the environment that will, in the end, not benefit the public as much as it will cause harm. 🍷



*San Jose's Center for Performing Arts Building built in 1972. Digital signs 50' x 75' will negatively impact the public's view of its unique design.*



# Scanning IBM/Temple Laundry Buildings

PAC\*SJ is working with Eden Housing on a proposal for scanning the former IBM building/Temple Laundry on N. 16<sup>th</sup> and St. John Streets. Documentation for the HABS (Historic American Building Survey) Report is required for the developer's project to demolish the 1928 addition to the original Temple Laundry building demolished decades earlier.

PAC\*SJ requested Eden Housing to preserve a significant portion of the 1928 building for integration into the new project, and remove the plating over the windows and pilasters of the Art Deco portion of the structure so it can be captured in 3D and photographed for the HABS Report.

Originally the two buildings (built 1920 and 1928) were judged to be historic and qualified for historic landmark designation in a 2008 report. However, a 2022 report countered the determination because the buildings had been altered and lost integrity. The current plan is to save the 1920 structure but demolish the 1928 building. 🐾



*Former IBM Building, built in 1928.*

*(Photo c. 1950: History San Jose)*



*On 1/14/25, the team is ready to scan the Temple Laundry/IBM (c. 1920 & 1928) buildings.*

*From left, Mike Sodergren (PAC\*SJ), Patrick O'Hern (NavVis) w/ VLX3 mobile scanner, Carl Foisy-(PAC\*SJ), and Brian Rhett (Custom Take Off). (Photo: Mike Sodergren)*

## District 3 Candidate Survey Results

PAC\*SJ sent a five-question survey to each of the District 3 candidates running for the San Jose Council on April 8, 2025. As of March 1st, results were published and distributed to our members and the public in general via our website, social media, print and broadcast media, etc.

The elected candidate for the D3 Council-member office will have the potential to exercise tremendous influence on the fate of the historic places that provide the backdrop for telling our unique and amazing story.

Visit [preservation.org](https://www.preservation.org) to see the candidates survey answers. 🐾



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# San Jose Downtown Progress

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The former Moderne Drug Co. building, later called the Western Dental Building at 42-50 E. Santa Clara Street, has been revitalized and is now occupied after a lengthy vacancy and slow deterioration. Three dental related businesses are open for business at the Art Deco/Streamline structure: Dental Specialties Institute, Dental Perfections and Scrublyfe Uniforms.

The corner of S. Second and E. Santa Clara Street now appears much improved and is a welcome sight for the neighborhood.

The three-story c. 1930s building is listed in San Jose's Historic Resources Inventory as a contributor to the San Jose Downtown Commercial Historic District, a candidate city landmark, and a structure of merit.



*Rehabilitated former Moderne Drug Co. Building  
on Feb. 22, 2025. (Photo: Gayle Frank)*



*Moderne Drug Company, c. 1930s on E. Santa Clara and S.  
Second Streets. Photo from c. 1955 courtesy of History San Jose.*

The architect who designed the structure was Ralph Wyckoff (1884-1956), a local architect who specialized in schools and public buildings. He moved his Watsonville/Salinas practice to San Jose in 1921.

His designs primarily ranged from Craftsman, Period Revival Spanish style, to later Art Deco and the machine-age Streamline. In the 1950s his designs evolved to the stark International style. An outstanding San Jose example of his Spanish Colonial style is the 1933 Post Office city landmark on N. First Street.



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## National Trust for Historic Preservation

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### Presents an Online Conversation

### “Creating Community with Cheap Old Houses”

Thursday, March 13, 10 AM (Pacific Time)

Join an online conversation on March 13 with Carol Quillen, president and CEO of the National Trust, Elizabeth Finkelstein, creator and host of the popular HGTV series "Who's Afraid of a Cheap Old House," and Cristiana Peña, preservationist and social media strategist for CIRCA Old Houses, as they share their love bringing these often neglected properties back to life and the role they play in creating community across the United States

**Free to the public: To register go to: <https://savingplaces.org/upcoming-webinars>**



# PAC\*SJ's 2024 Endangered 8!

**1. First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
43 E. St. James Street  
Built 1905  
Architect: Willis Polk  
Threat: Neglect

1.



**2. Sakauye Farmstead**  
2620 Seely Avenue  
Built 1900s-1940s  
Threat: Redevelopment

2.



**3. MACSA Youth Center**  
660 Sinclair Drive  
Built 1995  
Neglect, Redevelopment

3.



**4. Lawrence Hotel**  
71-89 E. San Fernando Street  
Built 1893  
Threat: Neglect

4.



**5. Forman's Arena**  
447 W. St. John Street  
Built 1926  
Threat: Neglect, Redevelopment

5.



**6. Bayside Canning Company**  
1290 Hope Street (Alviso)  
Built c.1925  
Threat: Neglect

**7. Almaden Winery Cellar**  
5533 Le Franc Drive  
Built 1850s  
Threat: Neglect

**8. Burbank Theater**  
560 S. Bascom Avenue  
Built 1949  
Threat: Neglect, Redevelopment



6.

# PAC\*SJ Annual Appeal Update

☉ The funds received between 1/15/2024-2/15/2025 from the PACSJ 2024 Annual Appeal totaled \$17,234.62

☉ Fifty donors contributed \$10,474.62

☉ Seventy-one membership renewals totaled \$6,760.00

☉ Gifts were made in memory of Sharon McCauley (from Erin McCauley), and in memory of Richard Wright (from Jon Wright)

☉ A gift was made in honor of McCarthy's Newsstand (from Anne Zingale)

Thank you to all who donated. Your contributions make a big difference in our mission. 🌸

## Endangered 8 Updates

### Sakauye House

The site has been cleared of all structures and many trees. The Sakauye House is left and will be stored on site on supports waiting to be relocated to History San Jose. Funds to cover the high cost of moving the house must be raised in one year.

### Milligan Lot/Forman's Arena

The Lot has been cleared of all debris and the cottage has been demolished. The former Arena is still standing but looks very vulnerable. Faint lettering of "WRES" appears on the façade and may be a remnant for the early boxing and wrestling days.

### MACSA Youth Center

See cover article. 🌸



7.



8.





# ON THE RADAR

## Gateway Tower/ Herrold Building

The Gateway Tower Mixed-Use Development Project from 2015 proposed a 25-story tower but agreed to save the landmarked Doc Herrold College

(broadcasting/radio school) at 465-67 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. A Historic Permit was approved in 2016. Now the developer is changing direction and proposes a 15-story mixed-use building for 220 affordable residential units and ground floor commercial (still facing both S. 1<sup>st</sup> and Market Streets). A new Historic Preservation Permit can only be approved with the applicant's hardship application approval. The façade would still remain and a historic exhibit on Doc Herrold would be installed.

The developer states that, "Denial of the Historic Preservation Permit would cause immediate and substantial hardship on the applicant because the new construction in accordance with Chapter 13.48 would be economically infeasible and unreasonable in light of the feasible uses of such property."

On February 5, the HLC voted 3-1 to recommend denial of the Historic Preservation Permit, but the project was later approved at a Planning Director's Hearing on February 26."

## SJSU Campus Master Plan

San Jose State University has developed The Campus Master Plan that is a long-range planning document for developments and projected growth. The Plan includes "demolition and replacement of approximately 1,065,000 square feet of existing academic, administrative, housing, and support facilities." "Approximately 1,400,000 gross square feet of academic, research, and administrative space and an additional 400,000 GSF of student support space would be added."

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is approved not by the City of San Jose or the county, but the California State University Board of Trustees. The EIR does not

include the historical analysis (DPR reports) for the buildings proposed for demolition. PAC\*sj is concerned. Without the historical reports, decision-makers will not make informed decisions about the plan's impacts.

The respected oldest structures will be renovated and upgraded but many mid-century buildings, such as the Music Building, Science Building (next to the Library), and those along San Fernando Street, are proposed for demolition. To view the plan and maps of the site visit <https://www.sjsu.edu/campusmasterplan/>.

## Vacant San Jose Buildings

A community meeting was held about the San Jose Code Enforcement list of blighted properties and their status. This list included the Z&L First Church of Christ Scientist (39 E. St. James St.), Lawrence Hotel (69 E. San Fernando), Dr. Eu Building (48 E. Santa Clara St.), Former Ross/Woolworth Building (27 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St.), Former Greyhound Station (70 S. Almaden), and former BoTown (409 S 2nd St., now razed). Later, the City added the Bank of Italy (12 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St.) and the Former Dai-Thanh Market (404/418 S. 2nd St.)

The City of San Jose representatives stated that they have difficulty collecting fines from property owners' neglected sites. PAC\*sj suggested that the City should require a surety bond with all entitlements so if a company doesn't pay, such as Z&L, there is an insurer that can be billed.

The City reported that there are currently 60 vacant buildings or storefronts of concern under protective inspection/monitoring in the Downtown area.

PAC\*sj also reminded the Planning Director, Chris Burton, that the HLC (Historic Landmark Commission) developed an amendment to the Historic Preservation Ordinance which addresses the "Demolition by Neglect" problem in this city. This amendment needs to be included in the Ordinance as soon as possible.

## Bo Town Restaurant

The burned structure has been cleared away. ➦



# PAC\*SJ 2025 Calendar

- Mar 13** Thursday, 1 PM-3 PM; PAC\*SJ **Preview Warehouse Rummage & Reuse Fair**. Members free, non-members \$5.
- Mar 14-15** Friday 9 AM-4 PM—Saturday 9 AM-1 PM; PAC\*SJ 's famous **Warehouse Rummage & Reuse Fair**, 20 Barack Obama Blvd/Autumn. Free to public. See details page 10 & 11.
- Mar 17** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. 1211 Park Ave., Suite 203\*
- Mar 29** Saturday, 10 AM—12PM; PAC\*SJ **Historic Walking Tour** at San Jose State University Campus. See details page 12.
- Apr 21** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. 1211 Park Ave., Suite 203\*
- May 1** Thursday, PAC\*SJ **Happy Hour at Teske's Germania**, 255 N. First St. Come celebrate Preservation Month and San Jose's legacy businesses!
- May 19** Monday, PAC\*SJ Board Meeting, 6:30—8:30 PM. 1211 Park Ave., Suite 203\*
- Jun 27** Friday, **PAC\*SJ 35th Anniversary Gala**, 6:30-10 PM, Hotel De Anza Palm Court and Hedley Room, 233 W. Santa Clara Street. To sponsor go to [preservation.org](http://preservation.org).

\*Call to confirm Board meeting locations at 408-998-8105. Locations or dates may change.

## PAC\*SJ Committee Meetings

The **Advocacy** Committee meets on Zoom at 6:30 PM on the Thursday before the first Wednesday of the following month.

The **Development** Committee meets at 4 PM on the second Monday of the month at the PAC\*SJ Office, 42A S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

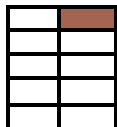
The **Education & Outreach** Committee meets on Zoom at 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Committee meetings are subject to change so if you are interested in participating, please call the office at 408-998-8105 to confirm the date and to receive the Zoom invite.

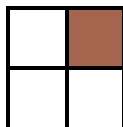
## ADVERTISE IN CONTINUITY!

*Continuity* is distributed to over 400 San Jose preservationists, homeowners and decision-makers. It's a great way to get your message out to your best potential customers! For ads larger than the business card, you must supply camera-ready artwork, or PAC\*SJ can provide it at an additional charge.

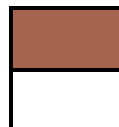
**Buy ads in 6 issues and SAVE! Plus, all multiple-issue ads come with a free membership!**



**Business Card**  
Single issue \$50  
3 issues \$120



**1/4 Page**  
Single issue  
\$100



**1/2 Page**  
Single issue  
\$200



**Full Page**  
Single issue  
\$375



# A CREEKSIDE SOCIALS EVENT



# PAC\***SJ** SALE

## HUGE WAREHOUSE RUMMAGE SALE

PAC\***SJ** Pins & T-Shirts, Books, China, Vintage Clothes,  
Vinyl Records, Ephemera, Furniture, Art, *and More!*

**MARCH 14 & 15, 2025**

**FRI 9AM-4PM \* SAT 9AM-1PM**

**FREE – Open to the Public**

**20 Barack Obama Blvd /Autumn St**

## **EARLY-BIRD SALE**

**THURS, MARCH 13 – 12PM-3PM**

**PAC\***SJ** Members: Free Non-Members: \$5**



**PAC\***SJ****  
PRESERVATION ACTION  
COUNCIL OF **SAN JOSE**

### **THURSDAY & FRIDAY— FREE STREET PARKING**

All proceeds support PAC\***SJ** and its local  
historical preservation efforts to educate,  
advocate and preserve San Jose's history.

Contact *Patt* at [donations@preservation.org](mailto:donations@preservation.org)  
to volunteer or donate.



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# PAC\*SJ Sale Details

## March 13-15

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Save the date on March 13-15 at 20 Barack Obama Blvd (former Autumn St.) near SAP Center. We have accumulated many treasures since the 11/20/24 Holiday Sale. The special Early Bird Sale on Thursday March 13 from 12 until 3 pm is an opportunity for our PAC\*SJ members, or others who wish to pay the entry fee of \$5, for first choice at our exciting wares. Hours on Friday are 9 am-4 pm and Saturday 9 am-1 pm.

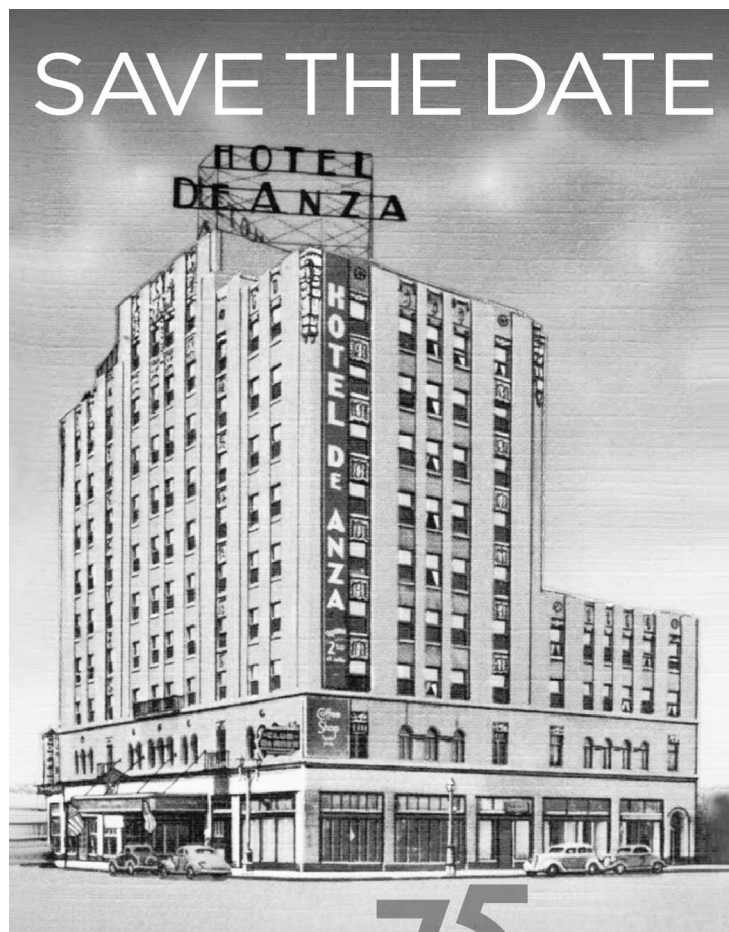
The sale will be held in a 2,000 square feet warehouse with interesting donations. You never know what you will see: lots of *Popular Mechanics* magazines from the 40s, wood produce crates from a local farm, clothes from the 80s, CDs/media, 30 boxes of donations from an antiques dealer downsizing, Edwardian sofa, full size spindle bed frame, small tables, cedar hope chest, several sets of dishes, Waterford crystal, useful housewares, books, jewelry, vintage steamer trunks in great condition, country kitchen table and chairs, gardening tools and other garage finds, golf shoes, bicycles, large dolls, décor, Pyrex bowls, and a lot more. See the sale flyer on page 10.

On Saturday from 9am-1pm, PAC\*SJ is excited to host Repair Café Silicon Valley and students from SJSU's Fixit Clinic to the Rummage and Reuse Fair. Repair Café is a volunteer-run, community service organization dedicated to encouraging the repair and reuse of goods rather than dumping them in landfills. Bring your broken household electronics, bikes, small appliances, and more to be fixed by volunteers for free! More info at [www.repaircafesv.org](http://www.repaircafesv.org).

Tell your friends and see you there!

—Patt Curia

PAC\*SJ Donations Chairperson



# PAC\*SJ

1990-2025 CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

## 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### HOTEL DE ANZA FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025

#### 6:30PM – 10:00PM

Hedley Club • Palm Court  
De Anza Room • Roof Terrace

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**\$135 PAC\*SJ Members \* \$150 General**

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**Stay for the Night at the De Anza Hotel!**  
*Special room rates available.*

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Tickets | Sponsorship Opportunities at  
**[PRESERVATION.ORG/PACSJ35](http://PRESERVATION.ORG/PACSJ35)**



# PAC\*SJ Historic Walking Tour



**March 29**

**10 AM — 12 PM**

**Members = \$15**

**Non-members = \$20**

## San Jose State University Campus

SJSU is the oldest public institution of higher learning in California, beginning as Minn's Evening Normal School in San Francisco in 1857. The State Normal School was established by state legislature in 1862. Looking for a safer, more sedate environment for the school, the facility staff selected San Jose for its new home in 1870.

After the loss of the first school building at Washington Square by fire (1880), and the second building from the 1906 earthquake, next came Tower Hall (1910), Dwight Bentel Hall (1911), and the Morris Daily Auditorium (1920), the oldest college structures still standing. Additional buildings followed: the Central Classroom Building (1924), Yoshiro Uchida Gym (1932), and Washington Square Hall (1933). Interesting buildings from the 1950s include the Spartan Complex, Spartan Memorial, and the Music Building.

On Tenth Street, we will see the Scheller-Martin House after several relocations on campus. It has a long preservation history with PAC\*SJ.

The campus holds a variety of architectural styles through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The older buildings hold stories such as who they were named after and why. We will also note a few of the interesting art, sculpture and artifact pieces displayed throughout the campus that are reminiscent of the past history and culture at San Jose State University.

We will also pass by the new state-of-the-art Interdisciplinary Science Building and the 2003 MLK, Jr. Library, the first joint use library in the U.S. shared by a major university and a large city. ♻



**Reserve your spot  
for the walking tour  
at:**

**[www.preservation.org/eventpage](http://www.preservation.org/eventpage)**





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# Hayes Mansion Celebrates 120 Years

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The Hayes Mansion management is celebrating its 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year with multiple events. They explained, "Throughout 2025, the 214-room luxury hotel property will celebrate the significant milestone with a series of events and activations honoring the mansion's storied past, architectural grandeur, and enduring legacy as a cherished part of San Jose's cultural fabric."

Hayes Mansion Guided Tours are offered monthly throughout the year with two coming up on April 11<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup>. They quickly sell out so visit the website for later tours. Cost is \$10 plus handling fee.

The tours will be curated and hosted by descendants of the Hayes family. Guests will learn more about the beautiful Mission Revival architecture, personal stories, and little-known facts about the historic site. The Hayes Mansion organizers describe the tours as follows: "Meet the descendants of Mary Hayes, wander through the captivating rooms and charming parlors, explore the heart of the home in the historic kitchen, and discover the enduring legacy of the Hayes family in shaping San Jose's story!"

Tour tickets are available at <https://www.hayesmansion.com/san-jose-holiday-happenings/>. One hundred percent of tour ticket sales will benefit Preservation Action Council of San Jose.

Another planned event is Croquet, Cornhole, & Cocktails on April 27<sup>th</sup> on the mansion lawn. Guests can play classic lawn games and enjoy bubbly prosecco, music, food and photo opportunities. The event which includes a spirits tasting will run from 1:30–6:30 pm. Admission is \$10 and a percentage of ticket sales will benefit Preservation Action Council of San Jose. Food and drink will be available for purchase onsite.

The Hayes Mansion management stated, "In keeping with the Hayes family's longstanding legacy of civic



*1905 Hayes Mansion, 200 Edenvale Avenue, San Jose*

engagement, the property will donate a percentage of proceeds from other anniversary events and promotions to Preservation Action Council of San Jose, supporting efforts to preserve and protect the city's historic landmarks."

The Hayes Mansion Holiday Brunches are returning and a special 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Apricot Cake is being created to commemorate the stone fruit orchards grown on the 700 acres of the Hayes property. The cake will be created by the beloved and historic Peters' Bakery and will be showcased at the Mother's Day Brunch.

Special Anniversary hotel packages and restaurant (Palm & Ember) specials are offered during the year. A Summer Garden Gala on June 12<sup>th</sup> will be the signature event for the 120th anniversary celebration. Every Wednesday the Socialite Happy Hour is held in the hotel's elegant Plaza Lounge, the site of the original sitting room of Jay Orley Hayes.

## Brief Background of Hayes Mansion

After the original Victorian Hayes Mansion in San Jose burned in 1899, this 62-room mansion, designed by architect George Page, has been referred to as one of the finest examples of late 19th-century architecture in the Santa Clara Valley.

*(Cont'd p. 14)*



# Hayes Mansion (Cont'd)

Mary Folsom Hayes Chynoweth (1825-1905), an active spiritual and healing minister and author, and her two sons, Everis and Jay, were to live here, but Mary died before the house was completed. The elegant, 41,000-square foot Mediterranean Villa features beautiful craftsmanship with imported marble and exotic woods decorating its large, airy rooms. Because of fear of fire, the kitchen was located in a separate building, connected to the mansion with a glass and marble plant conservatory.

The estate was self-sustaining, including a post office, power plant, train station, stage-coach stop, men's dormitory and chapel. They grew their own fruit and vegetables and raised livestock.

The two Hayes brothers, who were attorneys, were important influencers in the valley's fruit industry, held considerable sway politically, and published the San Jose Mercury newspaper.

The Hayes Mansion was sold in the 1950s and fell into disrepair. The City of San Jose purchased the Mansion and its remaining 6.2 acres in 1985. After renovation, restoration and expansion, the Mansion became a conference center by 1994. Further additions were made in 1996 and 2002.

As described in the press release, "Today, Hayes Mansion is a proud member of the National Register of Historic Places and remains a treasured landmark in the heart of Silicon Valley. As part of a \$20 million property renovation of the hotel's common areas, guest-rooms, and suites, as well as the opening of Palm & Ember in 2022, the Hayes Mansion joined Hilton's Curio Collection of hotels, a global portfolio of remarkable hotels with one-of-a-kind stories to share." 🐉



**Inside the Hayes Mansion with over a dozen types of wood paneling and 11 fireplaces. Below, beautiful windows and door looking out over the grounds.**

*(Photos from Hayes Mansion website)*





# Saving Los Altos Heritage Orchard

In the City of Los Altos, a working historic orchard stands next to the Civic Center at 1 N. San Antonio Road. It is a proud reminder of Los Altos's and Santa Clara Valley's rich history of agricultural production in the "Valley of Heart's Delight." Pioneers and settlers arriving west immediately recognized that the excellent soil, beauty, and mild climate in the South Bay would be the best choice for farming and ranching.

In 1901, one of those residents, Gilbert J. Smith, purchased land for his apricot orchard where N. San Antonio Road lies today. By 1954, Gilbert Smith sold most of his property to Los Altos but maintained the orchard and held fruit rights. In 1977, the Gilbert Smith house, one of the earliest in the town, was donated to Los Altos and became the City's first History Museum.

During Frank Lloyd Wright's visit to Stanford in 1954, he met with Los Altos residents about their plans for a civic center. Wright suggested the idea of maintaining Gilbert's Orchard and incorporating it into an environmentally compatible designed civic center, celebrating the orchard's significance to the area. Wright was a strong proponent of what he called "organic architecture." Soon that idea took hold—to design and build understated civic buildings that blended with the

Historic Orchard and nature. The late, local architect Carroll S. Rankin\* of Ernst J. Kump & Associates designed the original civic center structures. Today, the Orchard still borders the Library, Community Center, Police Station, the Gilbert House, and the Los Altos History Museum.

By 1981, the 10-acre Orchard was designated a Landmark and registered with the County and State. Its 444 Blenheim Apricot trees were healthy and were managed by a Master Local Orchard Farmer, Don Speciale and a crew, who contracted with the City of Los Altos to maintain the historic orchard and sell the fruit. (About 60% of those trees have aged and died but most have been replaced.)

In 2000, a New Master Civic Center Planning project removed the Historic Orchard from its inventory, while the maintenance and public stewardship fell behind; the Orchard's records and documents were lost. Periods of drought resulted in minimal or no irrigation, older trees died, and some trees were diseased with a fungus. However, voters rejected the bond measure for a New Master Civic Center Plan, saving the Historic Orchard and other public lands.

As the City looked for alternate development ideas for the land, the battle to save the Orchard continued. Lack of funding to properly care for the trees further impacted the Orchard.



Beginning in 2014, Phil Doestsch cared for the Orchard as a private contractor orchardist until he passed in December, 2022. He loved the apricot trees and took great pride in the orchard.

In 2019 the Los Altos History Museum's Orchard Commons Committee was established with Dr. Jane Packard as chairperson. One hundred new trees were planted, but not all took root. The new Historic Orchard signage was celebrated at public events.

When interested citizens finally found the Orchard's historical documents, they began educating the residents on its significance. *(Cont'd p. 16)*

*\*Carroll Rankin was the father of PAC\*SJ Board Member Gratia Rankin.*



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## Orchard (Cont'd)

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The City's development and expansion plans resurfaced in 2020. The preservationists' battle continued against what they called, "a death by a thousand cuts," as attempts were made to periodically remove small sections of trees, shrinking the size of the Orchard over time.

But a glimmer of hope arose in July of 2023 when the City authorized funds for a new Orchard maintenance contract with the Los Altos History Museum. A five-year plan was established to bring the Orchard back to its former healthy 444 trees and included plans for installing a modernized irrigation system, utilizing advanced pest controls, enhancing community outreach and accessibility, pruning, harvesting and restoring nutrients to the soil.

Now, three hundred new apricot trees have been planted and a new irrigation system has been installed.

Recently, further problems erupted with the city such as additional encroachment on the Orchard land, a refusal to define the landmark boundaries, side-stepping Historic Preservation Ordinances, and minimizing the impacts of projects to the Historic Orchard, such as plans for constructing a library patio. Most recently 25 trees were removed, one day after the Committee's Appeal was denied.

An orchard is complex, requiring expertise and hard work for it to thrive. Some of the current problems of drought, squirrels, bacteria and fungus infestations present the need for additional solutions.

The Los Altos Heritage Orchard is the last working orchard in the city and is a source of pride, "a symbol of Los Altos' unique 'semi-rural' identity." Dr. Packard said, "The Orchard Commons Committee is working toward a goal of having a healthy orchard in time to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027. 🌱

— Gayle Frank

### Sources:

- "Path to Preservation – Los Altos Heritage Orchard," by Los Altos Citizen Preservationists, Jan. 22, 2023.
- "Heritage orchard aims to grow to historical highs by 2027," by Adrienne Mitchel/Los Altos Town Crier, Aug. 8, 2023.
- *California Apricots: The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley*, by Robin Chapman, 2013.
- Robin Chapman Blog, July 25, 2019.

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## California Historical Society Closes

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The Board of Trustees of the California Historical Society (CHS) announced on January 28<sup>th</sup> that the organization was permanently closing. The difficult and reluctant decision was made due to the same "struggles faced by most history organizations and cultural institutions."

The CHS's extensive collection and archives were transferred to Stanford University and include over 600,000 items going back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and representing many cultures. The three-month relocation of the collection to temporary storage was completed last October.

Established in 1871, the nonprofit became California's official historical society in 1979, but CHS grappled financially during the last decade. The state of California never contributed to CHS's general operating funds. 🌿



*The California Historical Society (CHS) at 678 Mission St. in San Francisco, photographed in June 2023. (Photo: CHS)*

*The building was painted "international orange" in 2012 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge.*

*The building was sold in the summer of 2024.*



# Exploring San Jose City Landmarks

## HS92-94: American Can Company, 190 Martha Street, San Jose

The American Can Company's San Jose plant at Fifth and Martha Streets opened in 1912. This meant that local fruit and vegetable canneries had immediate access to cans for their packing operations. American Can Co. (ACC) originally formed in 1901 by merging many small companies in America and Canada, with headquarters in Manhattan, New York until 1970.



By 1908 the parent company expanded to geographic areas where canneries existed, producing millions of cans each year by 1919.

"Sawtooth" roof with skylights on the can manufacturing building.



In 1912, ACC originally planned to open a plant in Oakland, but the San Jose Chamber of Commerce Manufacturers' Committee lobbied fiercely for the facility to be built in San Jose and won out. According to a news article (*San Jose Mercury News*, 3/16/1912), the Manufacturers' Committee offered a free site to ACC but the company's representatives decided that, "San Jose appealed to them as such a favorable and desirable location, that they cannot ask the people of San Jose to go down in their pockets to help the American Can Company..." It was to be one of the largest can manufacturing plants in the world and would employ at least 300.

The ACC plant was significant locally because it was the first industry in San Jose to supply millions of cans to our canneries over its three decades. Approvals and construction began quickly, including the Common Council approving on 3/19/1912 of a 5th Street spur track the entire length of the proposed building. The building contract was awarded to Day Construction Company; the facility's operation was quickly up and running by Feb. 1, 1913.

In 1917 during WWI, the male labor force was scarce, so ACC announced the hiring of fifty women to work in the San Jose plant. Tinplate shortage supplies improved in time for the coming fruit season, so staffed night shifts began.

(Cont'd p. 18)



# San Jose City Landmarks (Cont'd)

Continental Can Company arrived in San Jose in 1927, a serious competitor to ACC. Subsequently, ACC cut back on its can production and eventually closed in the 1940s. For a brief time, the San Jose ACC leased its building space to the Sun Garden Packing plant.

Later, the Fifth and Martha plant became a cheese factory, owned by Sid Gambord, from the mid-1970s through the late 1980s.

On the corner of Martha and 5th Streets, the two-story reinforced concrete building with a flat roof has repeated pilasters and paneled parapet. The pilasters, topped with square caps, divide the ribbon of second story windows. Rows of small rectangular panels divide the first and second story. Facing Martha Street, one panel still displays "American Can Company."

A one-story section attached to the rear along 5th Street was originally a machine shop. Attached and to the rear of the machine shop was the main can factory that features a "sawtooth" roofline and skylight windows (see lower photo on page 17). Multiple modern automatic machines produced cans from tin plate without human hands involved. Each machine could produce 75,000 cans daily.

A large water tank is nearby, and a tall smoke-stack stands near Fourth Street. Cans were transported by train tracks running next to the building on Fourth Street and the spur on 5th Street." The length of the complete set of buildings was reported as 481 feet or 506 feet depending on the news article, filling a whole block. Expansion of the facility started around 1919..

At its peak in 1919, the San Jose plant produced ten million cans annually with 450 employees. The storage capacity in its warehouses held 32 million cans annually and had track facilities for loading and unloading 50 freight cars at a time!

In 1921 the company began producing torches for smudge pots, enabling increased employment year-round.

Besides San Jose, ACC had California tin can manufacturing plants in San Francisco (1915-1969), Sacramento (1926), Brisbane (1929-1991), Glendale, and Carson. Forty-two more plants were built throughout the US and two operated in Canada.

After 1987 the American Can Company was known as Primerica, a financial conglomerate which divested itself of its packaging arm in 1986. By 1998 it became a subsidiary of Citigroup until 2010.

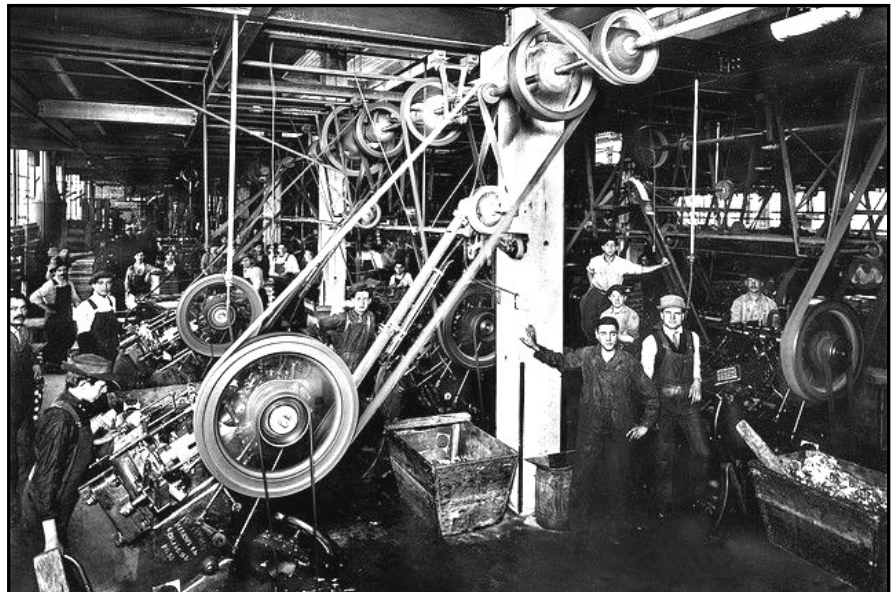
—Gayle Frank



*Water tank and tower for ACC.*

*Sources:*

*DPR Historic Resource Inventory Report,  
Glory Anne Laffey, 7/15/92  
Evening News, 3/16/1912  
San Jose Mercury News, 3/16/1912  
San Jose Mercury, 7/13/1913  
San Jose Mercury News, 5/25/1917  
Wikipedia*



*Inside the San Jose can manufacturing plant  
of American Can Co. c. 1913.*



# PAC\*SJ Membership Application or Renewal

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*Provide email address to receive timely notices of news, events and announcements. PAC\*SJ will not release your contact details.*

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I am interested in working with the following committee volunteer opportunities (*please circle*):

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The Preservation Action Council of San Jose is a dynamic nonprofit membership organization dedicated to **preserving our unique and diverse architectural and cultural heritage**. Through advocacy, education, and civic engagement, we promote historic preservation as an essential tool for fostering equitable, distinctive, sustainable, and prosperous communities.

We believe that **historic preservation is good for our quality of life, good for business, and good for the environment**. We aspire to integrate a strong commitment to historic preservation into the land use and development decisions of the City of San Jose that affect historic resources, as well as into the private decisions of property owners and developers. We try to bring owners and developers together to create historically sensitive projects that make economic sense.

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