

THE SIGNAL

San Buenaventura Conservancy

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Research Tools Never Get Old

BY SCHAF

The San Buenaventura Conservancy (SBC) is attempting to acquire historical research materials to help its members start basic research about their homes and families, and serve as a basis for background work on the Conservancy's "Action Items". The SBC is researching sources at the City of Ventura Clerk's Office, the Chamber of Commerce, the Ventura and Santa Barbara Libraries, the Ventura College Library, the County of Ventura and Regional Universities to find local maps, documents and photographs that can be used to advance the Conservancy's goals and benefit our members. The SBC is seeking a set of Sanborn™ Fire Insurance Maps, city historical surveys, old history books and periodicals, bibliographies, indexes, and archival photos and postcards.

The majority of local and regional historical data is housed at the Ventura County Museum of History and Art. However, there are many other locations that are not as well indexed. The SBC and its members have researched projects with past newspapers, genealogical files, birth and death records, marriage licences, oral histories, interviews, assessors maps, deeds, fire insurance maps, architectural blueprints, aerial surveys, declassified military photographs, environmental reports, the Internet, Ebay, history books, local magazines, and even his-

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Why San Buenaventura Conservancy... You Ask?

Yes... You Really Can Make A Difference!

BY CYNTHIA THOMPSON

As they say, a picture is worth a 1,000 words.

The loss of the Mayfair Theatre actually proved to be a lightening rod for heightened commitment to historic preservation by the community and our City officials.

Out of that incident came a 7-0 vote by City Council to revise our current Historic Preservation Ordinance, revisit the powers of our Historic Preservation Committee (HPC), and explore the Mills Act.

San Buenaventura is fortunate that we currently have a City government in place that listens and responds to the voice of its citizens. The San Buenaventura Conservancy (SBC) was formed to be a conduit of the public voice for historic preservation advocacy. "Post Mayfair" developers have begun to put historic preservation concerns at the beginning of their planning process by soliciting the "opinion" of SBC in partnership with Historical Preservation Committee.



The Mayfair Theatre, 793 East Santa Clara Street, Ventura. The Mayfair was demolished on August 11, 2004.

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Did you know...

President's Notes

CITY OF VENTURA

- **Historic Preservation Committee (HPC)** meet every **4th Monday** of the month at 4 p.m., Santa Cruz Room/City Hall.
- **Planning Commission** meets the **1st & 3rd Tuesday** of each month at 7 p.m., Council Chambers/City Hall.
- **Design Review Committee (DRC)** meets the **2nd & 4th Tuesday** of each month at 7 p.m., Council Chambers/City Hall.
- **City Council** meets **every Monday** at 7 p.m., Council Chambers/City Hall.
www.ci.ventura.ca.us

VENTURA COMMUNITY COUNCILS

- **Downtown** Ventura Community Council please visit website for meeting times.
www.goventura.com/dvcc
- **Midtown** Community Council meet the **2nd Thursday** of each month at 7 p.m., Cooper Hall/65 S. MacMillan Ave.
www.midtownventura.org

CITY OF CAMARILLO

- **City Council** meets the **2nd & 4th Wednesday** of each month at City Hall.
www.ci.camarillo.ca.us

CITY OF FILLMORE

- **City Council** meets the **2nd & 4th Tuesday** of each month at 6:30 p.m., City Hall.
www.fillmoreca.com

CITY OF OXNARD

- **City Council** meets **3 Tuesdays** per month at 5:30 p.m., please visit website for exact dates. www.ci.oxnard.ca.us

CITY OF SANTA PAULA

- **City Council** meets the **1st & 3rd Monday** of each month at 6:30 p.m., City Hall.
www.ci.santa-paula.ca.us

CITY OF THOUSAND OAKS

- **City Council** meets the **2nd & 4th Tuesday** of each month at 6 p.m.
www.ci.thousand-oaks.ca.us

BY CYNTHIA THOMPSON

Welcome to the first quarterly issue of the San Buenaventura Conservancy newsletter; **The Signal**. We apologize for the delay of this first newsletter. These past months have been filled with the necessary logistics in forming a non-profit organization to be a "tool" for preservation awareness.

Just look at the issues your voice has had a bearing on:

The Mills Act - This property tax abatement program was adopted by our City Council last year, enabling property owners of designated landmarks to take advantage of an average of 50% reduction in their property taxes.

The Midtown Charrette - March 10-14, 2005. A concentrated planning and design "conference" for Midtown that has a special historic preservation component (Saturday, March 12, 10-11 a.m.) with special guest speaker, Christy Mc Avoy, principal of Historic Resources Group, outlining the importance of becoming a Certified Local Government.

The Gould House National Register Nomination - The Gould family decided to move forward with this step due to the public support shown for the house during 2004 Ventura Architecture Weekend (VAW).

The Midtown Historic Resources Inventory Survey - Currently being conducted by our Historic Preservation Committee. Public volunteers are aiding in identifying the historic resources of Midtown for future protection.

The 2004 Cultural Plan - Awareness raised by VAW precipitated the inclusion of historic preservation as one of its cornerstone goals.

Kudos to all who have been involved, and an invitation to those yet to be involved. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Join us in celebrating our accomplishments, and ask how YOU can help make a better Ventura for tomorrow by preserving the record of today and our past. ❧

Historic Preservation Committee's Goals & Objectives

GOALS for 2005

Policy

- Revise Historic Preservation ordinance.
- Explore creation of new Historic Districts.

Community Outreach, Training and Education

- Conduct public workshops.
- Provide public seminars on preservation topics.
- Explore additional incentives to encourage preservation.

On-Going

- Complete Midtown Survey.

OBJECTIVES for 2005

Policy

- Post HPC agenda on City's website.

Community Outreach, Training and Education

- Mills Act informational mailers to landmark owners | April.
- Rights & Responsibilities informational mailer to property owners in historic districts | April.
- Participate in Ventura County Preservation Faire | September.
- Awards of Merit for Historic Preservation month | October.
- Host the "Historic Architecture of Ventura" tour | November.
- Attend the California Preservation Association Conference.

Informational Materials

- Update City preservation manuals, handouts and self-guided tours.

...now you do!

Get involved!

SBC

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Our City is currently gathering extraordinary talent to assist us with defining our growth through “Smart Growth”, “Form-based Code”, and “New Urbanism”. SBC is dedicated to working with the City in educating its growing membership in these new terminologies and how it affects the historic and cultural identity of San Buenaventura.



Top Hat, 299 East Main Street, Ventura.

Some of the upcoming issues are:

- The inclusion of homes within historic districts for Mills Act contracts,
- Updating the 1983 Historic Resource Inventory Survey for Downtown,
- The future of the Foster House and the Top Hat,
- The creation of new historic districts within Midtown.

Why SBC? To make a difference. Be involved to evolve. ❧

Research

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torical reports of landmarks that are now old enough to be historical themselves. Many of the founding board members of the SBC are experienced in the research of local history, and have expertise in the “Data Mining” required to find relevant information at many diverse locations. Some are intimately familiar with early local newspaper records, or with archival photography, or with the early Ventura pioneers, and some have also done period-specific research.

Ideally, SBC members seeking information on their homes or families will be able to plan their research with some of these historical references, before pursuing more specific data in diverse locations. The SBC website will soon have information on the basics of local research and links to or lists of the places to begin. Ventura’s Historical information is housed in many locations, both locally and around Southern California, so our collections will serve as a starting point for further studies.

Clip this out and give to someone you know who needs to join!

Membership Application

PLEASE SELECT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- INDIVIDUAL \$35 DUAL/FAMILY \$55 SUPPORTING \$100
 SUSTAINING \$250 BENEFACTOR \$500 CORNERSTONE \$1000 +

NEW RENEWAL GIFT/GIVEN BY _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME _____

BUSINESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

TODAY’S DATE _____ MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS JANUARY TO DECEMBER.

Please make checks payable and send to:
SAN BUENAVENTURA CONSERVANCY

Attn: MEMBERSHIP, Post Office Box 23263, Ventura, CA 93002

San Buenaventura Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Your payment is tax-deductible. We thank you for your support and welcome you to the San Buenaventura Conservancy!

www.sbconservancy.org or call 800/701-7237

Some Research Web Tools

- Fairchild photos collection is at Whittier College: web.whittier.edu/fairchild/home.html

- UCSB Aerial Photo Archives Ventura County: www.sdc.ucsb.edu/holdings/ready-ref/VENTURA_COUNTY.html

- UCLA Geography Air Photo Archives (including Ventura): www.geog.ucla.edu/Air-photos/photos-main.htm

- Index to Ventura County of History and Art Quarterlies: www.venturamuseum.org/library/qindex2.htm

- Ventura County of History and Art Research library info: www.venturamuseum.org/library/

- Online Archive of California (search Ventura): www.oac.cdlib.org/search.image.html

- Ventura County Genealogical Society website: www.vitalsearch-ca.com/gen/ca/ven/vengen2m.htm ❧

⌘ Board of Directors

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Jerry Breiner

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Editor

sherry@west.net

2005 Town Calendar

- 03/11 - 03/14 · Midtown Charrettes
- 04/28 · "Springtime in Camulos"
- 08/03 - 08/14 · Ventura County Fair
- 11/04 - 11/06 · Ventura Architecture Weekend

⌘ Mission Statement

The San Buenaventura Conservancy is a non-profit membership organization that works through advocacy and outreach to recognize, preserve and revitalize the irreplaceable historic, architectural and cultural resources of San Buenaventura and surrounding areas. We seek to increase public awareness of, and participation in, local preservation issues, and disseminate information useful in the preservation of the structures and neighborhoods of San Buenaventura.

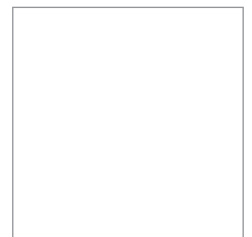


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DATED MATERIAL

