

NAPA COUNTY

NAPA COUNTY LANDMARKS

LANDMARKS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS ~ SAVE THE DATES!

- NAPA'S FULLER PARK DISTRICT WALKING TOUR *Sat, February 4: 10 am*
- NAPA'S RANDOLPH STREET WALKING TOUR *Sat, March 10: 10 am*
- POPE VALLEY DAY *Saturday, April 21*
- EARTH DAY *Sunday, April 22*
- PRESERVATION MONTH *Lots of activities! ~ Month of May*
- ANNUAL TULOCAY CEMETERY TOUR *Saturday, June 9: 10am*
- NAPA'S PORCHFEST *Sunday, July 29*
- "CREATING THE CRAFTSMAN"..... *Tues thru Sat 12-4pm thru March*

An exhibit curated by Napa County Historical Society is on view in the Goodman Library museum room.

IN THE NEWS

Napa County Historic Landmark Preservation Ordinance

by Kara Brunzell

Napa County is home to an unusually rich array of historic buildings and structures, including stone bridges, nineteenth-century wineries, and other unique properties. The watershed creation of the Agriculture Preserve in 1968 not only preserved local farmland and open space, it slowed development, which has resulted in the preservation of an unusual number of historic buildings.

Though many historic properties have survived due to this accident of history, very few have been officially designated as Napa County Historic Landmarks. Among these unrecognized gems are a handful of historically significant commercial and resort buildings that are located in the agricultural zone. Their owners have had no incentive to restore or maintain them since county zoning prohibits economic activity. County planning staff has worked to redress this neglect by crafting a Historic Landmark Preservation Ordinance that will allow for the rehabilitation of these important properties. Napa County Landmarks has supported this effort from the beginning.

The first version of the Landmark Preservation Ordinance came before the Planning Commission in March, 2011. Originally limited to only two properties, Planning Commissioners felt that the ordinance needed to be broader in order to allow for rehabilitation of other equally significant buildings.

In October the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that allowed for rehabilitation of historic Farm Centers and established the Mills Act as an incentive for owners of historic properties. NCL Board, staff, members, and other historic preservation advocates wrote letters and spoke at the meeting urging the Supervisors to allow property owners to preserve Napa's heritage for future generations. The agricultural lobby, however, led by the Napa County Farm Bureau, vigorously opposed the measure and even threatened legal action if it were adopted. In order to address these concerns the supervisors asked staff to revise the second part of the ordinance to include only the six properties that have been identified as historically significant.

On December 6 the Napa County Board of Supervisors voted to designate the six properties "landmarks of special significance," allowing their historic uses to be re-established. The board fell short of allowing the limited commercial uses that would help some of these properties to become economically viable, submitting to the Farm Bureau's demand that this ordinance must go directly to a vote of the people. Though our work will not be complete until this legisla-

tion is enacted, Landmarks supporters are thrilled by the changes the county has enacted to improve its historic preservation efforts. The updated landmark designation procedures, measures to protect historic granges, the Mills Act incentive program, and the re-establishment of historic uses for the six landmarks of special significance have brought us near the finish line in our efforts to preserve Napa County's heritage.

We would like to work hand-in-hand with the agricultural community since conservation and preservation are so closely aligned, but believe that the opposition to this sensible ordinance is based on unrealistic fears and that its adoption will benefit all the people of Napa. NCL will support county staff by providing input to the ballot measure that may be presented to Napa voters in the June 2012 election. We hope that the voters will agree that preserving six historic landmarks will not destroy Napa County's agricultural way of life, and that the measure will pass by a landslide. For more information, or to get involved in advocating for this issue, please contact denina@napacountylandmarks.org

Napa City Historic Preservation Highlights

by Sarah Van Giesen

The City of Napa's Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC)*has had a very exciting and productive 2011 year in the world of local preservation practices. The CHC is poised to start the process of updating Napa City's Historic Preservation Ordinance which will begin in early 2012. Also this past year, the CHC played an integral part in the review of two very important intensive level surveys, the Downtown Napa Historic Context Statement and Survey and the Alta Heights Historic Context Statement and Survey. Combined, these surveys reviewed over 800 properties and identified properties that will be updated on the City of Napa's Historic Resources Inventory (HRI). The CHC ambitious objectives for 2012 include continuing to update the HRI, revising the current HRI rating system to transition into the industry accepted State Resource Rating System, amending the city's Historic Preservation Ordinance, and reviewing the potential to nominate new properties to the National Register and adopt the Mills Act in the City of Napa.

Another city-wide effort, the Downtown Napa Specific Plan (DNSP) Committee has completed two years of community meetings with valuable input by the public, CHC and Napa County Landmarks. It is now in the hands of the City Council. This design guidelines document will serve as a preservation tool for our richly historic downtown core. Year 2012 will be an even more productive preservation planning year and we hope you will keep checking in with us to stay informed as to what is happening in our ever budding and morphing City!

Sarah Van Giesen is the Vice President of Napa County Landmarks and a CHC and DNSP committee member.

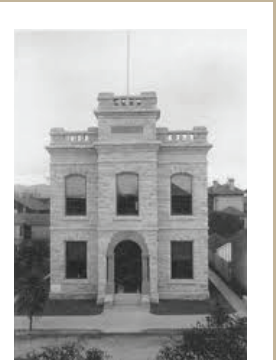
*The CHC advises City Council on historical preservation matters; makes recommendations to the City Council on the designation of landmarks and historic districts; and reviews and makes comments on issues related to the historic resources of the community. The CHC meets the first Thursday of each month at 5pm in City Hall Council Chambers. These meetings are open to the public and a great opportunity to see what is happening with preservation on a local level.



NEWS FROM THE STAFF

NOTE FROM NANCY LEVENBERG, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Napa County Landmarks and the Napa County Historical Society have moved forward vigorously on the 2009 Joint Venture Agreement between the two organizations since I started working here in April 2011. As you doubtless know, our two thriving and vital agencies share like missions and goals and jointly occupy the historic Goodman Library. In the past nine months, we have created a shared exhibit and program calendar for 2011-2012, co-sponsored programs and events, begun the accession of Napa County Landmarks' historic documents into the NCHS Library, and undertaken the important and challenging work of combining staff functions, streamlining office procedures, and importantly avoiding duplication of efforts. I anticipate the smooth continued development of our relationship as the organizations serving Napa County's preservation, publication, research, and advocacy needs.



BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

We are looking for volunteers to help with archive organization, exhibit preparation, social media and information technology. Come join our family of staff and volunteers in the beautiful historic Goodman Library in downtown Napa. We look forward to hearing from you!

info@NapaCountyLandmarks.org • 707.255.1836

DENINA FREDRICKSON, PROGRAM COORDINATOR, NAPA COUNTY LANDMARKS

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NAPA COUNTY LANDMARKS

ANNUAL AWARDS OF MERIT RECEPTION OCTOBER 9, 2011

The theme for this year's Awards of Merit was "Celebrating Napa's Rural Heritage." Landmarks honored individuals and organizations that have been instrumental in preserving Napa County's landscape and rural way of life. In keeping with this theme, the event was held in the charmingly rustic Tucker Farm Center just south of Calistoga. In addition to the presentation of awards for building preservation, Landmarks gave awards to representatives of the Land Trust of Napa County, Napa County Parks and Regional Open Space District, and the Lamoreaux family of Oak Knoll Ranch for heroic efforts to preserve the land. Eleanor Coppola attended the event to accept Landmarks' highest award on behalf of herself and Francis Ford Coppola. The Coppolas were named Preservationists of the Year for their success in reuniting the venerable Inglenook name with its historic estate. In addition to the awards presentation, the event featured tastings of Napa County's locally produced beer, wine and food. Napa's own bluegrass group, the Napa Valley Ramblers set the mood for an enjoyable afternoon of "old Napa" fun.

Napa County Landmarks holds this event each year to recognize worthy preservation projects; if you know of a project that should be recognized for its preservation efforts, please contact our office.



AWARDS OF MERIT RECIPIENTS

The Tour this year was WONDERFUL!

Best yet,
and we thought the others were great.
You outdid yourselves.
Please tell all the home owners that we really appreciate all they do to welcome us to this delightful show.
Can't wait for next year!
~ Participant

23rd ANNUAL HOLIDAY CANDLELIGHT TOUR DECEMBER 10, 2011

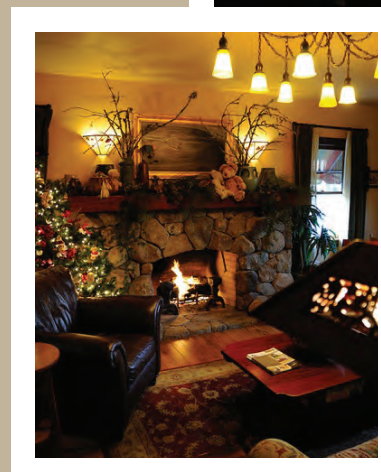
For the first time in the history of the event, this year's self-guided tour showcased Napa's stunning Craftsman style architecture featuring nine houses that ranged from small "jewel-box" bungalows to expansive houses. In conjunction with the tour, we hosted at our Goodman Building headquarters, renowned Bay Area Craftsman author, Jane Powell at a standing room only lecture and book signing. In addition, the Goodman Library museum room featured an exhibit devoted to Craftsman interiors.

The much anticipated annual event co-hosted by Napa County Landmarks and the Napa County Historical Society was an overwhelming success with increased attendance from years past. A heartfelt thank you to all of you who participated!



PHOTOS BY TOM SPAULDING

POSTER BY LINN DESIGN STUDIO



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Be a part of Napa County's preservation community. We invite you to participate by joining or renewing your membership today! Member benefits include advance events and reduced ticket prices to Napa County Landmarks events and quarterly newsletters. All gifts are much appreciated and of course tax deductible.

- \$35 Individual
- \$50 Family
- \$50 -- Joint NCL/Napa County Historical Society Membership
- \$100 Supporter
- \$250 Sponsor
- \$500 Corporate

Please visit NapaCountyLandmarks.org to make a secure online donation or mail us a check today!



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