



Alameda PRESERVATION Press

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALAMEDA
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Woody Walk

EAST END ARTS & CRAFTS

Sunday, August 28, 2016 at 1:00 pm



Meet at Lincoln Park

High Street at Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA

FREE for AAPS Members; Non-members \$10

East End Arts & Crafts: New Century, New Style

by Woody Minor

This year's walk explores the Arts & Crafts legacy of Alameda's East End. The tour will take in a wide swath of early 20th century houses in the vicinity of Lincoln Park, with a focus on two notable neighborhoods—the Sather Tract, replete with stylish homes by the firm of Delaney & Randlett, and “Little Pasadena,” the first major development by the prolific bungalow builder Robert C. Hillen. As we witness the emergence of Arts & Crafts (or Craftsman) in this lovely section of Alameda, noting its close relation to Colonial Revival, we will encounter the work of a diverse group of designers and builders that also includes Walter W. Landgrebe, Thomas D. Newsom, George H. Noble, and Alfred W. Smith.

Porch detail, 1601 Fernside Boulevard, 1911. Robert C. Hillen, builder; Walter W. Landgrebe, architect.



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East End Arts & Crafts...continued from page 1.



Looking west on Garfield Avenue from Fernside Boulevard, 1911. All the bungalows in this view were built in that year by Robert C. Hillen. By 1913, the vacant land on the other side of the street would also be filled with Hillen bungalows. The house in the foreground (1601 Fernside Blvd.) appears little changed today, though the globe-top lamppost has long since disappeared. [From "Alameda, California." Sunset Magazine Homeseekers' Bureau, 1911.]

Alameda's East End is the part of town where people first lived—where the ancient mounds were found and where the majority of early settlers made their home. This area was sheltered from the wind by the oak forest, close to fresh water, and situated alongside the peninsular land-bridge to the mainland (later cut through to form the island). The first civic monuments and mansions were built in the East End groves in the pioneer town of Alameda. On the walk we will take in several important Gold Rush era sites as well as the site of the largest shell mound.

The East End is also where Arts & Crafts houses first appeared in significant numbers in tandem with the Gold Coast. The partnership of veteran homebuilders Fred N. Delaney and Edwin A. Randlett, in existence from 1901 to 1916, played a central

role in the stylistic shift. Known for fine homes in upscale districts, they began building in the new style around the time of the 1906 earthquake. The firm's East End homes, four dozen in number, went up on land once owned by the Norwegian-born banker Peder Sather, including the Sather Tract development on the site of the largest mound. It seems likely that a good percentage of Delaney & Randlett's houses were designed by the gifted and versatile Oakland architect A.W. Smith.

The next builder of note, young Robert Cleveland Hillen, was born in San Francisco on July 11, 1884—the last day of the Democratic convention in Chicago that nominated Grover Cleveland for president. He became a freelance contractor at an early age, moved to Alameda in 1910 with his widowed

mother (who died the following year), and went on to build scores of bungalows from designs by his associate Walter W. Landgrebe. He moved to Oakland during World War I, advertising himself as a "Builder of Homes" and forming a partnership with the architect Walter W. Dixon. The hundred or so bungalows Hillen built on Liberty, Garfield, and Fernside in the years 1910-1916—an amazing Arts & Crafts enclave the press aptly dubbed Little Pasadena, comprising over half his Alameda houses—is where the walk begins.

**Woody Minor will give an illustrated lecture
on Alameda's Arts & Crafts legacy.
Thursday, August 25 at 7 pm
Alameda Museum, 2324 Alameda Avenue
Free for Museum Members • \$10 for Non-members**



The Alameda Museum & The Alameda Architectural Preservation Society Present

• 2016 •

ALAMEDA LEGACY HOME TOUR

Sunday, September 25, 2016
11:00 am to 5:00 pm

A Self-Guided Tour of Seven Historic Homes in Central Alameda
& the East End, Plus Refreshments and Restoration Vendors

\$30

**Advance ticket vouchers
available at:**

Daisy's

1347 Park Street

Alameda Shade Shop

914 Central Avenue

Wescafe

1518 Webster Street

\$35

**Day of tour tickets
available from 10:00 am
at:**

Franklin Park

Morton Street &

San Antonio Avenue



Painting by Linda Weinstock

**\$30 Tickets Online: alamedamuseum.org/hometour
Information: 510-479-6489**

ALAMEDA LEGACY HOME TOUR

Sunday, September 25, 2016

11:00 am to 5:00 pm



Calling All Docents!

FREE ADMISSION to the tour in exchange for being a docent on either the early or late shift.

Two shifts: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm or 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Enjoy a day of Alameda's finest architecture and finish with a wonderful party after for docents and homeowners.

To sign-up contact HTDocents@earthlink.net

Tour info at alamedamuseum/hometour.org • (510) 479-6489

Costumes admired but not required.

ARCHITECTURAL GEMS ABOUND

by Judith Lynch

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY EVENTS >>>

The oldest and most treasured place in the heart of our government is City Hall, opened in 1895 and complete with a clock tower and belvedere. Close by is another revered venue, the Carnegie Library, the permanent home of the Alameda Free Library until it moved to new digs in 2006. A series of events is planned to commemorate the Main's first decade. Local experts will use both word of mouth and word of foot to describe the styles, history, and designs of the most significant buildings in the Civic Center. Each boffo ending—in slides or on the hoof—will be a discourse on the Main Library, the newest structure in the area and a handsome building well worthy of being hallowed as a major monument to the Modern style of architecture.

In only forty more years it will be vintage!



Woody on Civic Heart

Tuesday, September 20, 6:30 pm
Stafford Room, Main Library
1550 Oak Street

Alameda native Woody Minor wrote more than 1,000 newspaper stories about local history, indexed and ensconced in a series of binders at the Main Library Reference Desk. He also wrote more than a dozen books and pamphlets that teach about local heritage. He is generous with his volunteer time, offering walking tours, working with students, and presenting slide shows about our island city. His next, a Library Talk about the Civic Center, is part of the lead-in to the tenth anniversary of the Main Library. Architect-author Pierluigi Serraino will add the Modernist perspective to Woody's historical discourse.



A Stroll in History

Saturday, October 22, 10:00 am
Carnegie Library
Oak Street and Santa Clara Avenue

Walkers will need to sign a waiver to take part in this activity.

Alameda architect Richard Rutter is possessed of such a wealth of knowledge that our fond nickname for him is "Dickopedia." He will lead a walking tour through the heart of the Civic Center ending at the Main Library where Architect-author Pierluigi Serraino will again discuss the Modernist perspective.

Alameda Artist Spotlight

by Linda Weinstock

AAPS is pleased to feature a series of accomplished artists who have focused on Alameda architecture.

Alameda artist Chris Rummell first came to love architectural preservation while dismantling buildings in the Pacific Northwest. What better way to learn how something is put together than by taking it apart? Paired with his background in art and graphic design, architectural salvage led Chris to the world of signs and gold leaf.

Samples of his work can be seen around Alameda and Oakland in galleries and commercial settings in the form of gilded transoms, store signage, and custom artwork.

Chris Rummell



Chris Rummell backing up a newly gilded transom at Jim Smallman's recently restored Queen Anne house at 1833 Clinton.

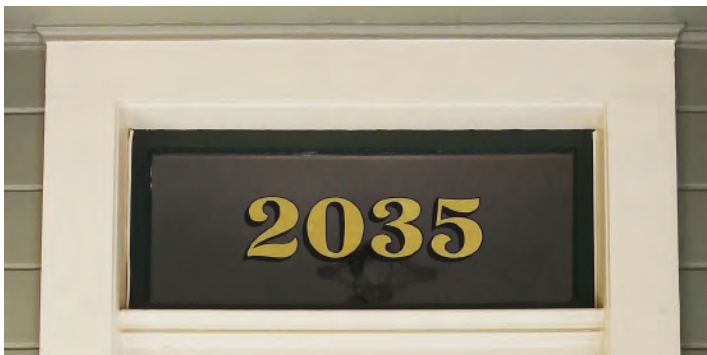


A sample bar sign, water gilded in 23 karat gold on a salvaged window sash.

Script window lettering for The Lodge on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland.



A recently gilded transom.



For inquiries about gilding and lettering, contact Chris at blackspinxofquartz@gmail.com

**ALAMEDA
ARCHITECTURAL
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY**

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alameda-preservation.org

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**Do You Own a Historic Building?
Let Everyone Know with a Plaque!**



EXAMPLE: HISTORIC BUILDING PLAQUE

**The Alameda Architectural Preservation Society
offers four types of plaques to
historic building owners.**

**To obtain a plaque application, please go to
our website at alameda-preservation.org
email plaques@alameda-preservation.org
or call 510-479-6489.**

AAPS SCHEDULE of EVENTS 2016

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

1:00 PM

Woody Walk: East End Arts & Crafts

MEET IN LINCOLN PARK

HIGH STREET AT SANTA CLARA AVENUE

Free for Members • \$10 for Non-members

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Alameda Legacy Home Tour

alamedamuseum.org/hometour

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

7:00 PM

Subject TBD

Woody Minor

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH