



DAVIS HISTORY MATTERS
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IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Next DHS Meeting: August 17 at 523 E Street, Davis
2. Any DHS Member Can Join the Board Listserv
3. New Demolition Law Started June 23
4. City of Davis Preservation Appreciation Awards
5. 501 Seventh Street Demolished Mid-June
6. Committee News
 - 6.1. Education News (Chairs Sharla Daly/Mark DuPree)
 - 6.2. Research News (Chair John Lofland)
 - 6.3. Publications News (Chair Lyn Lofland)
 - 6.4. Preservation News (Chair Merrily DuPree)
 - 6.5. Archives News (Chair Mary Ann Harrison)
 - 6.6. Newsletter News (No Chair or Members)
 - 6.7. Membership /Publicity News (Chair Jane Williamson Lewis)
 - 6.8. Web Site News (Four Members, No Chair)
 - 6.9. Email News (Chair Merrily DuPree)
7. Op-Ed: Stimulating Democracy in the DHS With the DHS Web Site

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1. NEXT DHS MEETING: AUGUST 17 AT 523 E STREET, DAVIS

The next DHS meeting will be Sunday, August 17, starting at 3 pm, at the home of Lyn and John Lofland, 523 E Street, Davis.

The meeting will feature a tour of John Lofland's collection of Davis history documents and artifacts.

An agenda for the August meeting will appear in the August newsletter, which will come out in the last days of July.

2. ANY DHS MEMBER CAN JOIN THE BOARD LISTSERV

In its arrangement with the Davis Community Network, the DHS operates three listservs: one for board members; one consisting of all DHS members, by means of which most readers

2 *Davis History Matters, 1: 8 (July)*

receive this newsletter; and one consisting of non-members who are interested in receiving infrequent general announcements.

The second two have relatively low use levels.

Some Board members have become concerned that the DHS is not fully serving non-Board members who want to engage in more discussion of Davis history matters than is likely to be welcome on the member list.

For DHS members with such more active interests, Board members want to draw attention to the fact that any member of the DHS can subscribe to the Board list, which is a more active than the member list, and participate in its more frequent discussions of various topics.

To subscribe, simply send an email to jflofland@ucdavis.edu. You should expect to receive several emails a month as a result of your subscription. When you send an email to the Board, you should also expect to receive prompt and interested responses. (At the moment, the Board list has one non-Board member. Therefore, the list has a small-group character.)

3. NEW DEMOLITION LAWS STARTED JUNE 23

The demolition of the Terminal Building in the Fall of 2000 prompted the Davis City Council to reconsider the then-existing demolition laws, which made it very easy to tear down a Davis building, even a historic one.

The process of ordinance revision began to churn and finally came to fruition on June 23, when a new set of rules about demolition went into effect.

The text of this new ordinance is available on the City's web site and a brief handout is available (in plain English) at the counter of the Planning and Building Department in City Hall.

In brief, its provisions are of four main kinds: required submission of a comprehensive site management plan; giving of public notice of various kinds; a replacement plan and City approvals prior to all demolitions within the Conservation Overlay District; and, special and extended review period for any structure built prior to 1945.

Because of the special interest of this topic to members of the DHS, a copy of the guideline document available at the counter of Planning and Building has been placed in the DHS web site file section. Look for "Demolition Permit Requirements."

4 CITY OF DAVIS PRESERVATION APPRECIATION AWARDS GIVEN ON MAY 21

In the press of other news items, last month's *Davis History Matters* neglected to report the May 21 City Council ceremony in which four Davis preservation projects were given City of Davis Preservation Appreciation Awards.

As stated on the agenda of the City Council for May 21, the recipients of the awards and their projects were:

-- Commercial Restoration and Rehabilitation of 213 G Street by Jeff Abrose, Scott Neeley, Ray Burton.

-- Restoration and Rehabilitation of the Grady Home at 602 D Street by Caz Taylor and Z Smith.

-- Restoration and Rehabilitation of the Bungalow at 1103 Fifth Street by Alice Eichold.

-- Relocation of the house at 312 D Street to 516 D Street by Adrian and Ilene Weins.

5. 501 SEVENTH STREET DEMOLISHED MID-JUNE

Readers of *Davis History Matters* who do not regularly travel in the vicinity of Seventh and D streets will be interested to learn that one of the oldest buildings in Davis, at 501 Seventh Street, was demolished and carted off in a single day in mid-June.

It was on the City's survey of historical resources, but not a designated historical resource. The estimated year of construction was 1915. It had been a rental for many years and had been allowed to deteriorate to the point that some people considered it beyond rehabilitation.

6. COMMITTEE NEWS

In every issue of *Davis History Matters*, each of the nine standing DHS committees is provided space in which to report news of its activities since the previous newsletter.

6.1. EDUCATION NEWS (CHAIRS SHARLA DALY AND MARK DUPREE)

[This committee did not report any news.]

6.2. RESEARCH NEWS (CHAIR JOHN LOFLAND)

[This committee did not report any news.]

6.3. PUBLICATIONS NEWS (CHAIR LYN LOFLAND)

In May, permission was received from *The Davis Enterprise* to republish Joann Larkey's "Portraits of the Past" columns on the DHS web site.

The scanning of all 164 of them has started (thanks to Dennis Dingemans and John Lofland) and discussions about clustering and sequencing are underway. We hope to have the first column or set of columns on the web by late this summer.

In the meantime, three additional publication projects are in process and may also reach fruition by late summer or early fall, if not sooner.

The Committee plans to meet in the next few months to discuss, among other matters, how to bring our publications to the attention of the a broad audience.

6.4. PRESERVATION NEWS (CHAIR MERRILY DUPREE)

[This committee did not report any news.]

6.5. ARCHIVES NEWS (CHAIR MARY ANN HARRISON)

[This committee did not report any news.]

6.6. NEWSLETTER NEWS (NO CHAIR OR MEMBERS)

[This committee has no members, which may explain why it did not report any news. However, this newsletter was nonetheless prepared and distributed.]

6.7. MEMBERSHIP/PUBLICITY NEWS (JANE WILLIAMSON LEWIS)

[This committee did not report any news.]

6.8. WEB SITE NEWS (FOUR MEMBERS, NO CHAIR)

[Report reluctantly written by press-ganged webmaster John Lofland.] A number of new documents have been added to the Files section.

NEW COLOR SCHEME ON THE DHS WEB SITE. The DHS web site now features "earth tone" colors that are considerably more mute than the previous "in your face" multiple and

bold selections. The banner color is named "BurlyWood," the side panels are in "LemonChiffon" and the central panel is "GhostWhite." (For whatever reasons, web design people like to run words together, as just seen.)

6.9. EMAIL NEWS (CHAIR MERRILY DUPREE)

[This committee did not report any news.]

7. STIMULATING DEMOCRACY IN THE DHS WITH THE DHS WEB SITE: OP-ED BY JOHN LOFLAND

For want of anyone else to take responsibility for a DHS web site, and because I believe a web site is absolutely necessary and central, I have undertaken to edit it.

This activity has caused me to begin to think about democracy and oligarchy in small voluntary organizations such as ours (and more generally).

My thought is that a democratically run web site can stimulate a higher than ordinary level of involvement and democratic participation in the DHS (and in general).

To this end, I have started to try to organize the web site in way that 1) makes information more available, and that 2) makes participation easier.

I spell out the specifics of this effort in a pdf document I have placed in the Files section of the DHS web site. It appears there as John Lofland, "Using the Web to Stimulate Democracy: Suggestions for Democratizing Voluntary Associations (With Special Reference to the Davis Historical Society)."

I urge anyone interested in increasing democratic participation in the DHS specifically (or in volunteer organizations more generally) to read my short essay on the specifics of actions I have undertaken.

The suggestions and efforts of anyone reading that essay are heartily welcomed.

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