



FULLERTON HERITAGE

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Williams Building Earns National Register Status

by Debora Richey

At the request of owner Brian Williams, Fullerton Heritage completed the application to place the Williams Building (112 E. Commonwealth) on the National Register of Historic Places, and the former Odd Fellows Temple was formally designated a state and federal historic site on April 24, 2002. The Williams Building is currently undergoing adaptive reuse to turn the upper floors into a ballroom and dance studio, and when construction is completed later this year, the building will be appropriately plaqued.

A fine example of early twentieth century commercial architecture, the Fullerton Odd Fellows Temple was constructed in 1927-28 for one of the city's oldest fraternal organizations, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge Number 103. Forty-five prominent Fullerton residents formed the Lodge on March 23, 1901. Although charter members purchased the lots for the Temple in 1905, construction plans did not start until 1925 when Lodge members were able to accumulate the \$60,000 needed to proceed. Oliver S. Compton (1862-1947), a local builder and long-time Lodge member and Fullerton resident, was called upon to design and build the Temple. A number of the building's subcontractors were also Odd



Fellows.

In designing the Temple, the Odd Fellows came up with the creative idea of having the Temple serve as both meeting hall and profit-making facility. Lodge members reserved the second floor for their secret and exclusive use while leasing and renting out the first floor as office and retail space and the third floor to other local patriotic, fraternal, and women's organizations. The Temple was the only fraternal building in the

city designed and built as both a meeting venue and commercial venture. When the Temple opened in 1928, the first floor tenants were the United States Postal Service and the Sanitary Market. The American Legion, Royal Neighbors of America, and Woodmen of the World leased the third floor meeting rooms, assembly hall, and banquet room.

The IOOF Building's legacy to the

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Advocacy Issues

by Katie Dalton

RDRC On Top of Guidelines

The Redevelopment Design Review Committee continues to do a fine job applying the preservation zone guidelines to new construction in the residential preservation zones. They are to be commended for their work on a second unit design at 440 W. Malvern in the Jacaranda Malvern Zone.

New Planner Joins City Staff

The Development Services Department has a new planner, Jay Eastman. Jay previously worked for the city of Orange and comes with experience in preservation issues. He should be a valuable addition to Fullerton's planning staff.

Cleaver House Gets Local Landmark Plaque

Another local historic landmark has received a recognition plaque. The Cleaver House, Local Landmark #57 at 519 W. Fern Drive has been lovingly restored and cared for by current owners Kathryn and John Baptista. We hope to recognize and plaque other Local Historic Landmark residences in the coming months.

Public Workshop to Focus on Standards for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

Fullerton Heritage is working with Paul Dudley, Director and his staff in Development Services to host a public workshop regarding guidelines for rehabilitating historic buildings. John Loomis of Thirtieth Street Architects is our esteemed presenter and will discuss the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, common concerns when applying the standards, and their relevance to some of Fullerton's historic properties. The workshop is part of the Planning Commission agenda at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday **October 23** and is open to the public. Any members or other interested folks are encouraged to join us for this informative presentation about preservation issues.

Amerige Realty Local Landmark Plaque Ceremony Set

Fullerton Heritage will be hosting a brief, informal ceremony to place a commemorative plaque on the Amerige Brothers Realty Office, Local Landmark #4. Please join us at 3:30 p.m. on **October 15** at the building in Amerige Park (just south of the Senior Center on Commonwealth Ave.) if you would like to honor this building's place in Fullerton's history.

Fullerton College to Host Public Forum on Campus Renovation, Construction

The generous support of local voters for the North Orange County Community College District bond offering in the election last spring has provided Fullerton College with nearly \$150 million for construction of new facilities and renovation of existing facilities on campus. The construction activity will impact the campus for the next five years and, according to Dr. Viera, President of Fullerton College, will bring much-needed and exciting changes to the campus. Fullerton College will be hosting a community forum on **October 17** at 5:30 p.m. in the Wilshire Auditorium on Lemon St. just south of Chapman Ave. They will present a detailed look at the actual projects they have planned for construction over the next five years. Information will be provided about the changes taking place on campus and what they are doing to minimize the impact on the surrounding community. Light refreshments will be served and free parking can be found after 5:00 p.m. in the Plummer Parking Structure on the corner of Chapman and Lemon. For those of you unable to attend the evening event a similar forum will be presented in the Wilshire Auditorium at 2:00 p.m., with a focus for the faculty and staff. We encourage our members to attend this informative meeting. If you have any questions or need further information please contact Dr. Viera at (714) 992-7038.

President's Corner

by Tom Dalton

It's been a while since the Fullerton Heritage annual meeting but, for the benefit of those of you who couldn't make it this year, I'd like to recap some of the highlights. As has become our custom, we again this year combined the annual meeting with the placing of a commemorative plaque. This year we placed a Local Landmark plaque on the historic Museum Center. As many of you know, this beautiful building served as the Fullerton Library from 1942 until 1973 when the Fullerton Museum Center was established. It was built as a WPA project and features exceptional detail including the moldings over the doorways and stained-glass windows. Also, as has become our custom, we honored several Fullerton residents for their efforts to restore some of our city's historic homes. This year's Preser-

vationists of the Year Awards went to Julie Candelaria and the Edwin Foster family for the outstanding job they did restoring the historic Foster Home at 524 East Commonwealth Avenue. The Golden Hammer award went to Lauren and Marcel Kooiman for the wonderful job they did restoring their home in the preservation zone at 345 West Jacaranda Place. It's people like this that keep us encouraged about the future of our city's older housing stock.

I'd again like to recognize and thank the hard-working members of the Fullerton Heritage board of directors, Warren Bowen, Katie Dalton, Bliss Ehrlich, Ann Gread, Jim Powell, Michele Powell, Debora Richey, Dave Temple and Cathy Thomas for making my job as president so enjoyable and for all the volunteer hours they give to help make our city such a great place to live. I'd also like to thank Joe Felz and the Museum Center staff for their gracious hospitality. We hope to see you at next year's event.

Williams Building

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community lies in its use as a community meeting facility. At the time of the Temple's construction, there was a shortage of meeting space in Fullerton, and the IOOF Building, with its substantial size, prominent location, and room availability, became the natural place to hold any type of gathering. After construction, the Temple became a major center of social and recreational activities in Fullerton. City telephone directories, association records, club directories, and the social calendar section of the local newspaper from 1928 to 1960 indicate that, aside from the town's Masonic groups, nearly half of Fullerton's voluntary organizations met at the Temple.

In addition to these voluntary associations, the IOOF Building was a prominent meeting place for veterans' organizations. Because many Lodge members had served in the military, the Odd Fellows often allowed veterans to use the facility for free. In 1928, the United Spanish War Veterans (Warwick Camp), who had organized on May 11, 1927 with ten members, began meeting in the Temple on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. They were joined in 1930 by the eleven members of the Grand Army of the Republic—Malvern Hill Post Number 131, formed on September 3, 1886. The Civil War veterans

met at the Temple, sometimes in conjunction with the Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans, until 1941 when the Post had only two remaining members.

During the Prohibition Era, a speakeasy was added to the third floor banquet hall. To get to the speakeasy people had to go through a series of doors and ring a number of entry bells. Entrance and exit were also through the fire escapes. The Odd Fellows, in some capacity, occupied the upper levels of the building until 1949, and the structure continued to serve as a lodge and meeting venue for various groups until the 1970s. In the late 1940s, the War Surplus Company (now the Williams Company) permanently took over the first floor. The Williams Family's long ownership of the building has been a contributing factor toward the Temple's preservation.

The Williams Building remains a striking example of a 1920s brick commercial structure. The imposing exterior is enhanced by pale pink and blue terra-cotta tiles, seemingly in imitation of marble, and three small copper turbans or onion-shaped domes cap piers that rise at the end and in the center of the parapet on the main façade. The building was extensively rehabilitated in 1994, and the front façade is now completely restored. The building's interior spaces, however, remain the most historically significant. The interior still features the meeting rooms, large assembly halls, and stages used by

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Coming . . .

Docent-Led Walking Tour

Nov. 2, 2002

Tours meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Museum Center, Pomona and E. Wilshire. The walk takes about one-and-one-quarter hours. There are a few (optional) steps. This is an opportunity to gain some new insights into our city's lively past. The tour is free to members of Fullerton Heritage, with a \$5 per family charge for guests. Anyone may join Fullerton Heritage at the beginning of the tour.

Good Contractor, Handyman or Supplier? Share Them!

We are working on a Restoration Resources Guide to aid owners of historic properties in their improvement projects. If you have any "tried and true" craftsmen, contractors, supply/hardware resources etc., please send their names, addresses, and phone numbers to Fullerton Heritage, P.O. BOX 3356 Fullerton, CA 92834, or call the Hotline to leave the information at (714) 740-3051.

Williams Building

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the Odd Fellows and other fraternal groups for their elaborate rituals and ceremonies. The Temple remains an obvious and well-known reminder of the group of fraternal organizations that served the city so prominently during much of the 20th century.



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