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The Judson Studios

Judson Stained Glass Studios, at 200 S. Ave. 66, remain as both a leader in the stained glass production field and as a cultural landmark for the Highland Park community. The building first housed the USC School of Fine Arts before the studio moved in 1920.

City monuments

LA history on display throughout northeast

By Charles Cooper

Visitors to Northeast Los Angeles, as well as local residents wanting to brush up on the history of the area can see the 11 sights declared as historical and cultural monuments by the city in one short drive from Elysian Park to Eagle Rock.

The 11 are included on the overall list of 120 cultural and historical monuments declared by the Cultural Heritage Board since its formation in 1962.

The board is an advisory group to the Municipal Arts Commission whose job is to rule on the various "historic, cultural, aesthetically beautiful or architecturally important sites" recommended for preservation by private groups or individuals.

The board has one statutory power; it can prevent the demolition, alteration or removal of a building for 360



Hiner Home

Its rough stone construction and close early association with the "March King", John Phillip Sousa, who taught classes here, make this building at 4757 North Figueroa Street one of the landmarks of the local community.

days by filing an objection to the granting of a permit. After that, if the property remains in private hands, the board can only seek to convince the owners that the property is worthy of preservation.

The board's first action was to declare the Leonis Adobe, in Calabasas, as an historical monument, protecting it from threatened demolition. In May of 1966 the building was opened to the public.

RAILROAD

Beginning near downtown Los Angeles, persons in search of the area's cultural heritage can see the Southern Pacific Railroad river station, located between North Broadway on the west, North Spring Street on the east, The Los Angeles River and Elysian Park on the north and the Capitol Milling

Company on the south. The board's official description says of the old railroad yard, "This historic section of the Southern Pacific Railroad yards in Los Angeles symbolizes the importance of the railroad to Southern California. The economy of the growing city of Los Angeles changed immeasurably when the railroad reached it in 1876.

"Consequently, the river station, which is in the heart of old Los Angeles, still has many vestiges of 19th century railroading. The freight yards, warehouses, tracks, switch houses, docks and cobblestone paving can still be seen in their original setting."

Close by, at 737 Lamar St., is the original home of the San Antonio Winery, for many years the only remaining

winery in the city. The CHB description says:

"The San Antonio Winery, founded in 1917, is a symbol of a historic industry and . . . reflects the economic and social history of the community.

"Many years ago, when our pueblo had not yet attained the dignity of a 'big town,' and when it was not considered important enough for the big railroads to include in one of their stops, nature came to our aid.

"Grapes, it was found, would provide enough freight revenue to make it worthwhile for the Southern Pacific to come to Los Angeles. An emissary was sent to Europe to study the art of wine making. California soil

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Abbey San Encino

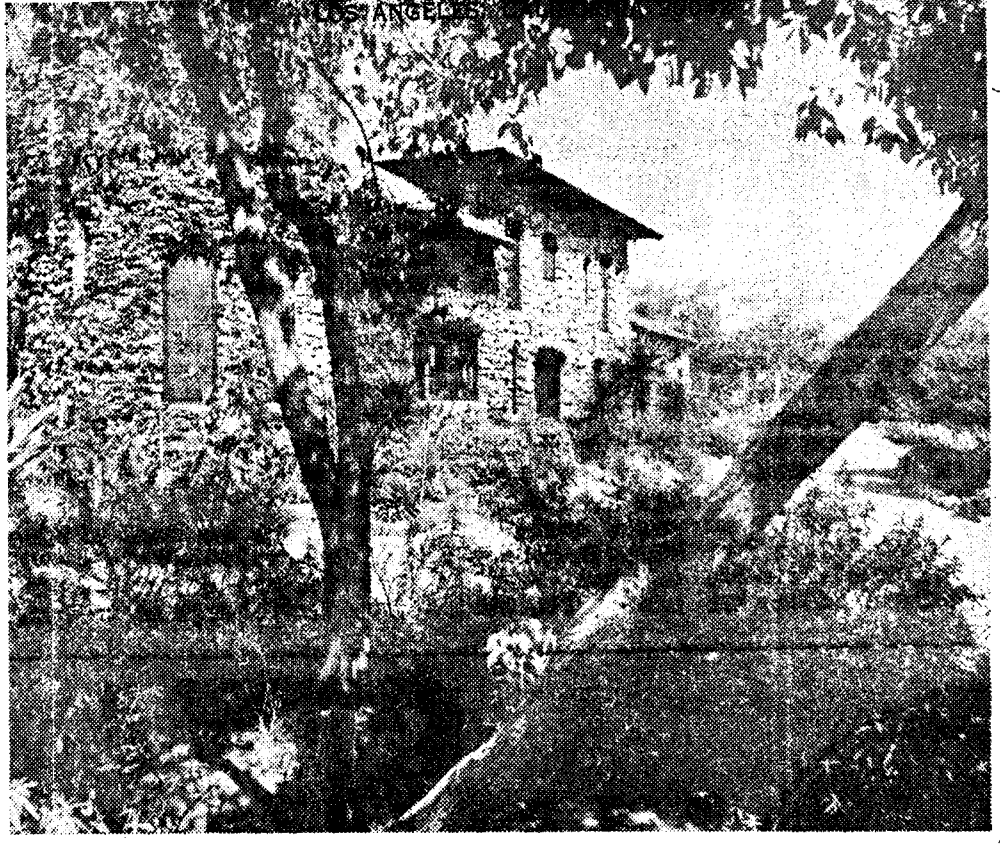
Half a medieval abbey and half a Spanish mission, this local landmark built by printer Clyde Brown in 1915 is on the city list of cultural heritage monuments for the Northeast area. It is located at 6211 Arroyo Glen.

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90042



Ave. 66 Home

This home at 432 N. Ave. 66 has been cited by the Cultural Heritage Board on its list of historical-cultural monuments. The building was constructed around 1890 and is, according to the CHB, a good example of a challenging mixture of Queen Anne and Eastlake styles.



El Alisal

Built virtually by hand over a 15-year period by Charles F. Lummis, pioneer historian, librarian, archeologist and civic leader in Northeast Los Angeles, the structure and grounds at 200 E. Ave. 43 now house a museum of Lummis life and the offices of the Southern California Historical Society.

History on display in northeast

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provided nature's tools and wine became one of California's native great industries."

Moving up North Figueroa Street to Ave. 43, three of the monuments are clustered within a few blocks of each other.

LUMMIS HOME

One is El Alisal, the Charles Lummis Home, at 200 E. Ave. 43, declared a historical monument for the city when the property reverted to the Department of Recreation and Parks from the state.

Lummis, the pioneer author, editor, historian and librarian, as well as archeologist and founder of the Southwest Museum, largely constructed the stone house with his own hands, and completed it in 15 years of work.

The structure was his home

until his death in 1928, and was a center for meetings of community leaders. It now functions as a museum of Lummis's life, and as headquarters for the Historical Society of Southern California, and is open to the public from 1 to 4 p.m. daily except Saturday.

Nearby, at Homer Street and Ave. 43, stands Heritage Square, which houses Hale House and the Valley Knudson residence, formerly located on Johnston Street in Lincoln Heights.

The stretch of park land by the Pasadena Freeway was originally the relocated site for two old Bunker Hill mansions, the Salt Box and Donegan's Castle, left over from the redevelopment project. However, both were destroyed by fire caused by vandals in October of 1969.

The Heritage Square project

was originated by the CHB, and was continued with the moving of Hale House from its location at Ave. 45 and North Figueroa Street.

The board called Hale House "an outstanding example of the late Victorian era . . . exuberant in ornamentation and detailing, without academic rules, it is based on borrowed styles and forms of the past."

The home was owned by Bessie and James Hale from 1901 until Mrs. Hale's death in 1966, and was moved to Heritage Square in July of 1970.

The board's description concludes, "This elegant residence, little changed from the original, stands today as a symbol of the transitional Victorian age as it passed from a rural society of the 19th century towards a growing industrial, urban American of the 20th century."

The Hale House is expected to be open to visitors by the end of this year, when refurbishing is completed.

KNUDSON RESIDENCE

Currently the only other occupant of Heritage Square is the Valley Knudson residence, named for the founder of Los Angeles Beautiful.

The house was originally located at 1926 Johnston St., and dates from around 1885. It is described as a "19th century Mansard style residence . . . one of the last examples of its style left in the Los Angeles area."

Mansard refers to the type of roof.

The board says that the "wood craftsmanship and detail are noteworthy" in the building, which was moved to Heritage Square in February of 1971 and will be restored as private funds become available.

Up North Figueroa Street at 4757 is one of the newer cultural monuments in the northeast area, the Hiner House.

The house was built in 1922 by Dr. Edwin C. Hiner, and was constructed of rough stone. Hiner was a close friend of band conductor-composer John Phillip Sousa, and the great bandsman conducted a class for musical students in the building.

Abbey San Encino, at 6211 Arroyo Glen, was also declared a monument last year. It was

built in 1915 by an printer, Clyde Brown, as a combination of Medieval church and Spanish colonial mission.

JUDSON STUDIOS

The Judson Studios, at 200 S. Ave. 66 were probably preserved both as a business and a local landmark by action of the Cultural Heritage Board.

The studio, which produces stained glass and mosaic work, was about to be forced from its historic location locally because of it being a non-conforming use of the zone. Since that time, the studio has continued its prominent position in the art of stained glass work.

The building in which it was located was the site of the USC School of Fine Arts and Architecture until 1920, when the school was moved to the USC campus.

The building was owned by William Less Judson, father of Walter H. Judson, founder of the studio, and when it became vacant in 1920 Judson moved the studio from its first location, in Mott Alley near the Los Angeles Plaza.

A third local cultural monument preserved by order of the CHB last year was a home at 432 N. Ave. 66, built around 1890 and, according to the board, considered as a good example of Queen Anne and Eastlake architectural styles in a challenging mix.

CITY HALL

The final two monuments on the quick tour of the northeast are the Eagle Rock City Hall and the Eagle Rock itself.

The City Hall at 2035 Colorado Blvd., was built in 1922, 11 years after Eagle Rock became an incorporated city and one year before it became part of Los Angeles. The Eagle Rock city hall was the first city hall to be acquired by the city through annexation.

At one time it housed the mayor, city clerk, city attorney, water department, fire department, city council and the policeman — there was only one.

After annexation, the building housed city offices, at one time was a fire station before a new station was built beside it, housed the federal ration board and the Eagle Rock YMCA. It has now been re-opened as an art center, meeting hall and historical museum, and will shortly have

the office of local councilman Art Snyder in it.

EAGLE ROCK

Finally, one of the area's most notable landmarks, the Eagle Rock, was declared a historical monument in 1962. It is described as a "massive rock, 150 feet high, of sandstone formation . . . a center of interest since the days of the Indians." The figure of an eagle in flight can still be glimpsed despite erosion over the years.

Tourists, both the home-grown variety and those from out of the area, could venture into other parts of the city and see such declared monuments as Bullocks Wilshire, the downtown office of the Auto Club, Adalai Stevenson's birthplace and the Grauman's Chinese Theater, clear indications that the CHB is not exactly rigid in its classifications.

They cannot see Angels Flight, Bunker Hill funicular which is now in storage; but most of the other historical and cultural sights are still around.

Reportedly there are efforts being made to have the Highland Park Ebell Club declared on the list; and such local structures as the Southwest Museum, Casa de Adobe, and Frank Silverwood home in Eagle Rock, the original Farndale School on

the El Sereno Junior High campus and others seem conspicuous by their absence from the master list, to some observers of the local scene.

But the list is flexible and it is growing, as the board continues its efforts to provide a history for a city accused of never having one.