

Heritage Square to open within eighteen months

By Roger Swanson

Heritage Square is expected to open on a full-time basis within 18 months with five structures in various stages of restoration.

Three homes constructed before the turn of the century are now situated at the square on Homer St. off Ave. 43 and the Pasadena Freeway.

Exterior work on the Hale House is nearing completion and work is well underway on refurbishing the ornate rooms. A second house, originally named the Johnston St. House but now known as the Valley Knudsen Garden Residence, has been placed on a foundation and restoration work is expected to begin on the exterior within two months.

BEAUDRY HOUSE

The third home, the Beaudry Street House, is still on blocks awaiting construction of a brick foundation.

Two more structures are scheduled to be moved to Heritage Square in November and at least one more home — a unique octagon shaped residence — is already owned by the Cultural Heritage Foundation, although plans to move it have not been made.

The two structures to be moved next month will be situated at the Homer Street entrance to

Heritage Square. One, the Mt. Pleasant Home now located at 1315 Pleasant Ave. in Boyle Heights, will be the most opulent residence in the 10-acre park whose purpose is to restore and showcase examples of significant architecture during the Victorian era of Los Angeles.

PALMS DEPOT

The second building, the Palms Train Depot, can be seen near Robertson Street off the Santa Monica Freeway. Built in 1885, the station once served as a Pacific Electric stop.

The last of its type in Southern California, the Palms Station will be placed near the entrance to the park and will serve as the terminus for a short rail line. When restored, it will be the park's reception building where visitors can pick up information on Heritage Square and tour a small revolving railroad museum.

The Mt. Pleasant Home was built in 1876 by William Perry, first president of the Los Angeles gas and electric company. He was also the great grandfather of actor Robert Stack.

The home, which contains six bedrooms and six bathrooms, is owned by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America. They will sub-

lease property in Heritage Square and restore the home themselves. Originally a wood frame home, the exterior has been covered with stucco which will be chipped off. Protected by the stucco coating for many years, the wood siding is expected to be in excellent condition.

OCTAGON HOUSE

The sixth structure expected to be moved to Heritage Square is the Longfellow-Hastings Octagon House in Pasadena. Many historians consider the use of the octagon shape in the design of private homes to be the first true expression of the "American style of architecture," according to Jeanne Wald, executive director of the Cultural Heritage Foundation.

The prime exponent of the octagon architecture is generally conceded to be Olson Squire Fowler who died in 1885 at the age of 76.

Fowler's presence was felt, however, Thomas Jefferson included an octagonal shaped room in the center of Monticello and expressed a desire to have the White House designed as an octagonal building.

There are only five preserved octagonal shaped buildings in

Heritage Square..

(Continued from Page 1)

California — two in San Francisco, one in Two Rocks near Petaluma, one in San Carlos and the Longfellow-Hastings home in Pasadena. The others have been either redesigned or remodeled, leaving the Pasadena home the most accurate representation of the Fowler design concept on the west coast.

REBUILD PORCH

The house, built in 1893, has not been remodeled or renovated in any way, except for the removal of an eight-foot deep porch which circled the structure. When moved to Heritage Square, the porch will be reconstructed and will later serve as the stage for children's puppet shows and other presentations.

A final completion date of the park has not been established because other buildings the foundation plans to bring to the site have not been found. They include a Queen Anne style residence, a bandstand, church, pastor's house and schoolhouse.

"It is difficult to make a time projection because we won't just move a house," says Ms. Wald. "True preservationists and historians try to preserve a house where it was built. We will take a house only if it is in immediate danger of being destroyed."

Money is also a problem. While the foundation has a number of subscrib-

ing members, large grants from foundations are necessary to complete the expensive restoration each building requires.

CITY GIVES LEASE

Up to last year foundations were hesitant to approve grants because the Cultural Heritage Foundation did not have a lease to the Heritage Square site. Foundations willing to make grants feared that the foundation could be thrown off the site, eliminating the use for which grant monies had been approved.

The city last November gave the foundation a lease on the Heritage Square land and now grant applications are receiving more favorable consideration.

Renovation is not an inexpensive project. Les Dames de Champagne donated \$6500 for the restoration of the Hale House dining room and even then the foundation relied on donations of labor and materials from artisans and firms to complete the renovation.

The original frieze paper was reproduced as a gift from the Albert Van Luit Company and a detailed tracing of the ceiling paper was donated by Vin Rickard of Victoria, B.C., who made the tracing before the paper was removed several years ago.

DONATIONS

Fireplace tile was reproduced as a gift from Interpace Tile Company

and was installed by the Ceramic Tile Institute according to early photographs and rubbings. Several other individuals and firms participated in the renovation, saving a substantial amount of money.

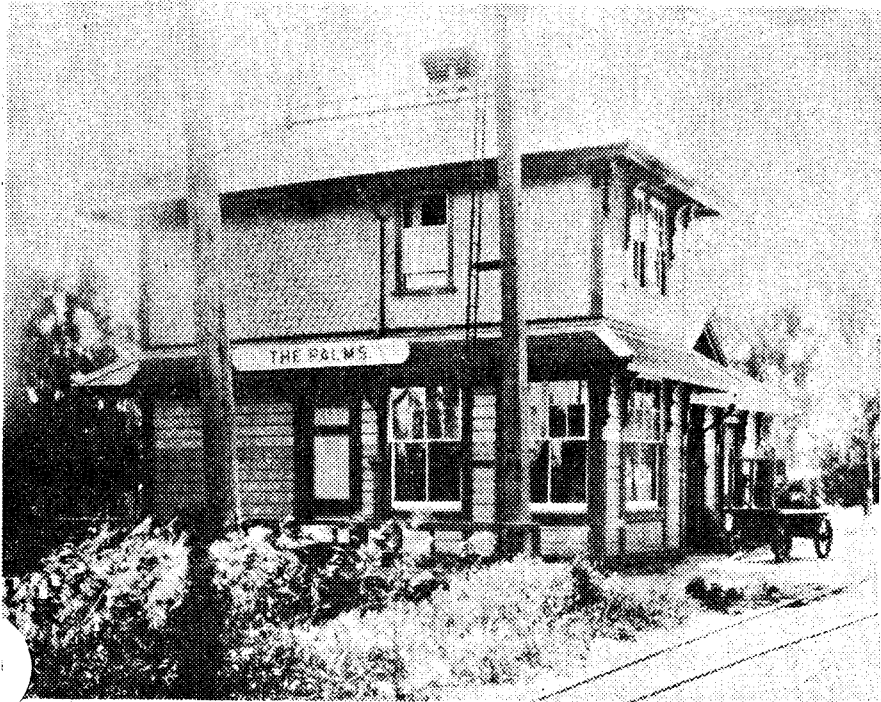
That the work was expertly done was demonstrated in August when the dining room won a national award

sponsored by Scalaman-dre, a New York fabrics house, for excellence in design. It was proclaimed to be of museum quality. The \$500 cash award was presented at the Los Angeles national convention of the American Society of Interior Designers.

Long range plans for Heritage Square also call

for construction of a commercial area at the west end of the park at Pasadena Avenue. The buildings, to be of period design, will include a restaurant-beer garden, bank, ice cream parlor, firehouse, general store, pavilion, theater and transportation museum. Whether or not these buildings would be in actual use has not yet been determined.

The residential area of the square, however, will be available for public use. Weddings will be allowed in the church and specific rooms in Hale House and other residences will also serve as reference libraries for students of architecture and other fields.



Move train depot

The Palms Train Depot now located in the West Los Angeles community of Palms will be moved to Heritage Square in November. Donations are still needed to cover the moving costs of more than \$700.



Coming to Heritage Square

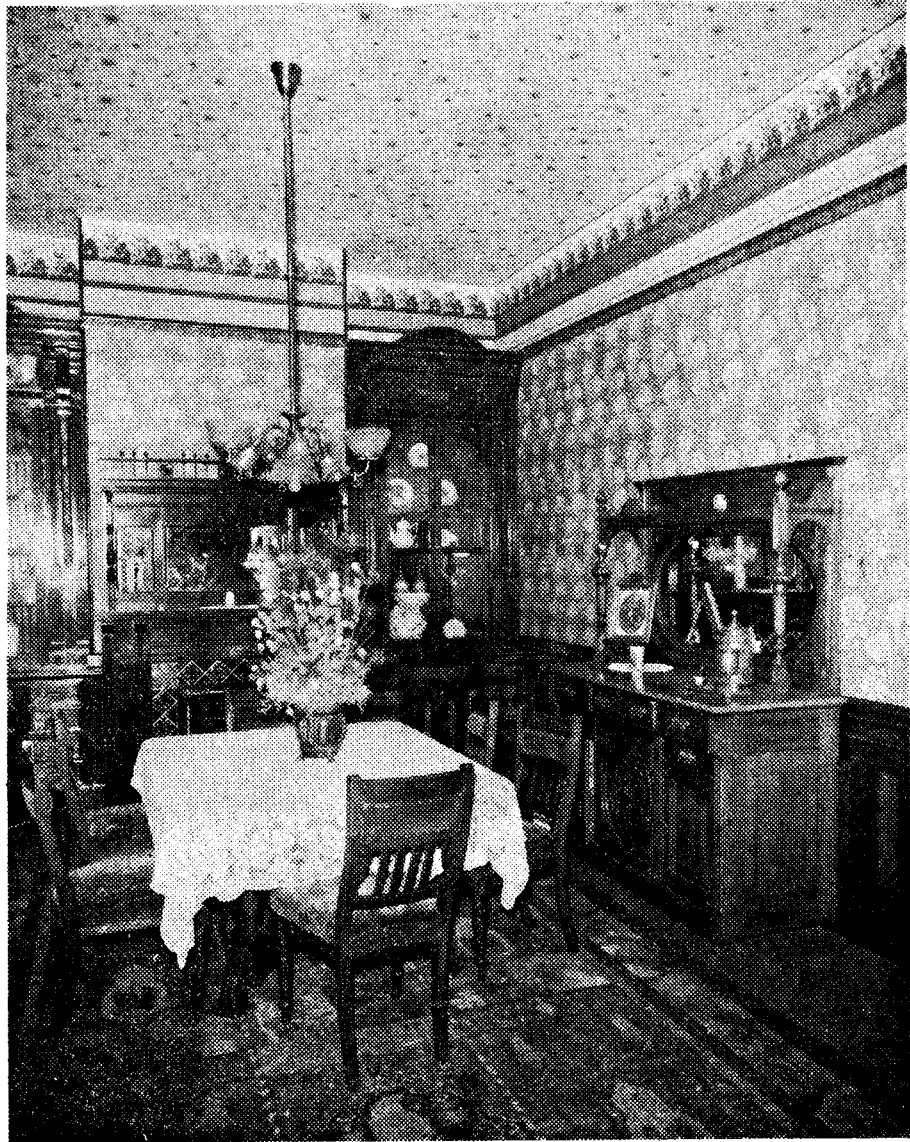
The Mt. Pleasant home at 1315 Pleasant Ave. in Boyle Heights will be moved to Heritage Square next month, saving it from the bulldozer. Originally a wood frame residence, the house has been covered with stucco which will be chipped off.



Early Days of Hale House

North Figueroa Street (foreground) was not yet paved when this undated photo of the Hale House was taken at its original site at the intersection with Ave. 45. Still in pristine con-

dition, the house in later years deteriorated and was in danger of demolition when it was moved to Heritage Square in 1970.



Dining room wins award

The Hale House dining room — won an award for "excellence in design of museum quality" at the national convention of the American Society of Interior Designers in August. The \$500 award was sponsored by Scalandre, a New York fabrics house. Les Dames de Champagne donated \$6500 for the restoration.