

Online Travel Itinerary



(Continued from page 1)

those who guarded our shores and supplied our troops. In the San Francisco Bay area, many of the places of this history are still visible – from Fort Mason to Moffett Field to the Kaiser Shipyard. They are tangible evidence of American resolve and resilience, preserving the stories of the Rosies and all the others who made a difference and who continue to inspire us today.” In her welcome letter to virtual visitors, Senator Barbara Boxer adds, “If America was the ‘Arsenal of Democracy’ during those times, the Bay Area was the arsenal’s shipyard. The Bay Area served as a coastal fortress, a pipeline to the Pacific, and as a center for cultural and social innovation. WWII caused so many dramatic changes in the Bay Area that the war years came to be known as the ‘Second Gold Rush’ in California.”

Mike Buhler, Regional Attorney and Program Officer, has supervised the National Trust’s *Over Here!* initiative since its inception three years ago. The purpose of *Over Here!* is to promote collaboration and partnerships among Bay Area communities which have historic resources relating to the War in the Pacific, with the primary goal of maximizing the preservation, reuse, and community development opportunities of WWII historic properties and landscapes. Data compiled through the *Over Here!* initiative, including site descriptions, historical and color photographs and public accessibility information, served as the template for the National Register Travel Itinerary proposal. This information was augmented by historical information and photographs collected through outreach to nonprofit organizations, veterans groups, developers and local governments associated with individual WWII sites.

Mountain View Black Officers Club, Fort Huachuca, AZ: A Window to Segregation in the U.S. Military

In April 2004, representatives of the U. S. Army and the Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers* (SWABS) signed a Memorandum of Agreement giving SWABS authority to start actions for the preservation and renovation of the Mountain View Black Officers Club at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, which had been threatened with demolition by the Army. The National Register-eligible club (also known as Building 66050) is believed to be the only remaining military facility in the country built as a social club for African American soldiers—and the only surviving structure of its era at Fort Huachuca. Fort Huachuca is located about 70 miles southeast of Tucson.

Following the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, the number of African-American soldiers in the U.S. military increased dramatically. Up until that time, roughly 4,000 black soldiers served in the 9th and 10th Cavalry, with only a handful of black officers on duty. With the rapid expansion of the Army in World War II, African Americans were encouraged to sign up and African American men were commissioned as officers in large numbers. During WWII the Army built 1,400 structures at Fort Huachuca to house the segregated black soldiers of the 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions. There were 40,000 to 50,000 people posted at Fort Huachuca, making it, after Phoenix and Tucson, the third largest center of population in Arizona. Fort Huachuca also included a black WAC (Women’s Army Corp) detachment.

Mountain View Black Officers Club has great significance to thousands of African American officers who spent their off-duty time there. Socializing was segregated at Fort Huachuca and white officers had their own club – Lakeside. Although white officers could visit Mountain View, African American officers were barred from Lakeside. Built in 1942, the 17,000-square-foot Mountain View featured top-name entertainers such as Lena Horne during its heyday. Following WWII the building was used as a service club for soldiers and then as

an NCO (non-commissioned officers) club. Mountain View was targeted for demolition when the Army began to demolish all wooden structures whose maintenance costs were deemed too high.



The Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers has been leading the fight to save the building, and Western Office staff visits and advocacy, along with technical advice from the National Main Street Center (through its Army–Community Heritage Partnerships Program), were also put to work to preserve Mountain View Black Officers Club. The Memorandum of Agreement gives SWABS permission to work on the restoration project under a lease agreement. SWABS will rehabilitate the structure as a black military history research center, bringing an important and largely untold story to the American public: the history of segregated African-American troops from 1866 to 1951. The cost of renovating the former clubhouse is estimated at \$1.5 million to \$2 million.

*The Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers was organized in 1993 in part to recognize the accomplishments of four segregated regiments, two cavalry and two infantry that served at Fort Huachuca during a 33-year period between the Indian Wars and the early part of the 20th century.

Two ways to keep up with the Western Office!

Join our mailing list by sending an email to wro@nthp.org or visit the National Trust’s website at: http://www.nationaltrust.org/about_the_trust/western.html

Unique Monterey Landmark at Risk

by Monty Kingsley



Following the freeway into downtown Monterey, it's not easy to miss an unusual building situated almost on the first city block. A barreled roof resplendent with cobalt blue tiles, complemented by an unusual Moorish gable, naturally draws the eye to the Marsh Building.

This eclectic masterpiece, blending Moorish and Asian influences, was built in 1928 by George Turner Marsh, a merchant from San Francisco. Marsh competed with San Francisco's Gumps as an importer of oriental antiques and was also instrumental in opening Hagiwara Garden in Golden Gate Park in the 1890s. Even today the Japanese Teagarden remains one of that park's most popular venues.

Sequestered within a compound featuring miniature Japanese and Chinese gardens, the 7,000 square foot building is George Marsh's legacy to Monterey. After many years in San Francisco, this is the place where Marsh lived and conducted his business until his death.

Not only does the Marsh Building tell us something about Monterey's rich past, but it also echoes what Monterey is trying to become today -- a multicultural center for the Pacific Rim. Despite its unusual hybrid style and its eye-catching appeal, however, the Marsh Building has not fared as well as Hagiwara Gardens.

Ironically, at the very time that local ties to the Pacific Rim are strengthening, this distinguished survivor is perceived



as a white elephant and is now at risk of being lost. The Marsh Building's evocative, polyglot architecture is threatened by an opposing architectural legacy: California's Missions. The Roman Catholic Diocese acquired the building a few years ago and appears to have its own preservation agenda: conservation of Monterey's Spanish Colonial Mission, one block away. It would appear from its neglect of the Marsh Building that, regrettably, the Diocese sees no compatibility between the Marsh Building and its own historic site, which it is seeking to expand.

The key issue is whether this perceived architectural incompatibility can be resolved in a town known for preserving its heritage. The City of Monterey is attempting to do this, but attempts have been hampered by laws involving church-state relations.



In the meantime the building sits neglected in an apparent no-man's land between two architectural heritages in conflict. Concerned private parties and some members of Monterey City staff continue to grapple with why it has to be this way and persist in trying to work out a solution. Western Office Director Holly Fiala and Regional Attorney Mike Buhler toured the outside of Marsh's with local preservationists during a Monterey area visit in February 2004.

"Marsh's was established in 1928 to enhance the cultural diversity and interests of Monterey citizens and Hotel Del Monte guests; it continued to enrich the community until its closure and sale in 2000," commented James Bryant, President of the recently-established Alliance of Monterey Area Preservationists. "While no formal decision has been announced regarding Marsh's fate, its former glory is rapidly disappearing through neglect. Demolition of this building would be a severe loss to the rich heritage of the Monterey area."

For more information, visit:

<http://home.earthlink.net/~kingslma/>

Ridgewood Ranch – Seabiscuit

(Continued from page 1)

organizations in a dedication ceremony: Seabiscuit's restored stud barn was officially reopened before an audience of 250 guests. The local Willits Rotary Club can be credited with returning the stud barn to its former glory and providing funds and volunteers to complete the rehabilitation project. The Club's effort lays important groundwork for future historic preservation activities at Ridgewood. National Trust Senior Program Officer Anthony Veerkamp was on-hand to announce the inclusion of Ridgewood Ranch among **America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places 2004**, along with the news that earlier this spring the National Trust's Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation awarded a \$5,000 grant (see pg. 4 for details). Tracy Livingston, President of the SHF, also identified the Foundation's Honorary Board, which includes members of Charles S. Howard's family, Laura Hillenbrand, author of *Seabiscuit, An American Legend*, and Richard Moe, NTHP President, among others.

SHF is preserving Ridgewood's cultural legacy in collaboration with several organizations, including: California's State Office of Historic Preservation; the Mendocino Land Trust; the Willits Chamber of Commerce; and the NTHP. Still a working ranch, Ridgewood is owned by the Golden Rule Church Association, which has endeavored to be a model steward. The Church is actively working with the MLT and SHF to develop strategies for long-term protection of Ridgewood. The California Department of Conservation has already committed up to \$1,000,000 to purchase a farmland easement on the property, and the Church has agreed to donate a substantial portion of the easement value and to provide public access.

Wheels are turning to ensure that the thoroughbred horse-breeding legacy embodied by Charles Howard's Ridgewood Ranch and its famous stallion, Seabiscuit, will endure. Although Ridgewood's future now looks bright, funding is still in short supply.

For more information go to:

<http://www.seabiscuiteritage.com/help.html>

Grants from Cynthia Woods Mitchell & Johanna Favrot Funds

Twenty-three preservation programs and historic sites nationwide have received grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors and the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation. The selection committees faced a real challenge in choosing among 58 grants applications for the Johanna Favrot Fund, and 33 grant applications for the 2004 round of the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund. In the Western Region, five grants were awarded; two Mitchell and three Favrot. Congratulations!

The Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation

Pinal County, Florence, AZ, received a **\$2,500** grant to fund architectural services associated with stabilizing the clock tower of the Second Pinal County Courthouse (National Register, 1891). The County is embarking on a long-term project to preserve the courthouse, which has been called the single most important architec-



tural landmark in the town of Florence, a town well-known for its many National Register-listed structures. A recent assessment of the building revealed that the distinctive clock tower atop the American-Victorian style courthouse is in danger of collapse as the result of design flaws and inadequate maintenance. Stabilization of the clock tower will be the first phase of a long-term project to preserve and update the courthouse for the use and enjoyment of future generations. It is estimated that the entire project will cost nearly \$3 million.

The City of Oakland, CA was awarded a **\$3,500** grant, which will be used for consultant services to complete a Mills Act Ordinance and Contract Program for the City of Oakland. The Mills Act is a preservation incentive adopted by the State of California in 1976 that allows reductions of property tax assessments for historic properties if the owner signs a contract with the local government agreeing to preserve the property and maintain its historic characteristics.

The Mendocino Land Trust, Mendocino, CA was awarded a grant of **\$5,000** to produce a conditions assessment report and develop rehabilitation costs for the Mare Barn Complex (1905-08, 1916, 1920s-1940s) at the Ridgewood Ranch, home of Seabiscuit.

Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors



Piper's Opera House Program, Inc., Virginia City, NV received a **\$5,000** grant to develop a comprehensive historic interiors plan for the John Piper's Opera House (1862-85, NHL). Piper's is one of the last two remaining opera houses in the nation that hosts a wood and canvas interior.

Wink Luke Memorial Foundation dba Wing Luke Asian Museum, Seattle, WA was awarded a **\$7,000** grant to assess, inventory and propose stabilization and preservation methodologies for interior spaces, fixtures and furnishings of the East Kong Yick Building (1910, NR) in the Chinatown/International District of Seattle. The interior spaces will be rehabilitated to serve as an authentic interpretive space and to house exhibits for the new Museum facility scheduled to open in 2007.

APPROACHING DEADLINES

"Restore America: Communities at a Crossroads"

National Preservation Conference in **Louisville, Kentucky, September 28 - October 3, 2004**. The preliminary program and on-line registration will be available from **June 1, 2004**. To learn more about the conference and to register go to <http://www.nthpconference.org/>. Deadline for early-bird registration rates is **July 31, 2004**. Early registration fees make it economical for you to attend. By registering before July 31, you can save up to \$175.

Applications for the National Trust's *Preservation Services Fund Grants* are being accepted until **October, 2004**. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Western Office prior to submitting an application.

For additional information regarding these grants contact Melita Jureša-McDonald, Program Assistant, melita_juresa-mcdonald@nthp.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The New Urban Park: GGNRA and Civic Environmentalism

Join **Hal Rothman**, a prominent environmental historian, as he discusses grassroots politics and the establishment of the Golden Gate National Parks, and its effect on municipal, state, and federal policy related to the National Park Service. Hear how the policies developed at this park may represent the future model of national parks in America as public lands and financial resources become increasingly scarce. **Saturday, July 31; 1 to 2:30 p.m. FREE; reservations required, call 415-561-7752.** The Crissy Field Center is located at 603 Mason St. in the Presidio of San Francisco.

CORRECTION ("State Commission Recommends Old Monterey County Jail for National Designation", March/April 2004):



The Old Monterey County Jail was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 22, 2004. Monterey County officials immediately filed a petition to remove the jail from the National Register on procedural grounds. Since the article in the March/April 2004 newsletter, the National Park Service removed the Jail from the National Register for procedural deficiencies on May 13, 2004, although the building remains eligible for inclusion in the National Register and will be published as such in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The Keeper of the National Register has confirmed that the National Register nomination would be reconsidered for listing only after correction of the procedural errors. The Monterey County Architectural Heritage Association is hopeful that the State Historical Resources Commission will schedule this matter for another public hearing sometime this year.