

## Historical Landmarks & Records Advisory Commission

The regular meeting of the Historic Landmarks & Records Commission was held in the Community Room at the City of Clovis Fire Department Building in Clovis on November 15, 2007.

Members present: Bud Olson, Steve Barile, Nancy Enloe, John Baltierra, Peg Bos, James Kus, Randy McFarland, Penny Raven, Susan Pappas, Aileen Bos, Judy Ganulin  
Members absent: Don Shantz, Roger Taylor  
Others present: Elida Mendoza, Karen Bosch Cobb, Madeline Sheldon, David Berkey, Elizabeth Laval

### AGENDA ITEMS

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy McFarland .
2. Adoption of Agenda: The order of the agenda was revised. Item 9 b) 1) Gefvert Ranch was moved to follow item 6.
3. Comments from the Public: None.
4. Approval of Minutes of September 20, 2007: The minutes were approved as distributed.
5. California History & Genealogy Room Acquisitions – Mr. Bill Secrest Jr., the California History & Genealogy Room Librarian, shared some recent acquisitions with the Commission. The items he brought to the meeting were a 1918 photo of young men going to war (women and children were also in the photo) taken in front of the Civic Auditorium that was located where the Del Webb building (County Plaza) currently sits, two books on the subject of mineral resources west of the Rockies in 1850/51 at a time when gold mining no longer existed in Fresno County, an original print of a chapter decoration of William Saroyan's A Human Comedy, and a photo of the Fresno Fire Department in 1877 right after it was organized.
6. Records – None.
7. Centennial Farms

Gefvert Ranch (Sheldon Family Residence) – Commissioners reviewed an application submitted by Mrs. Madeline Sheldon to place her family's residence on the County's list of historic places. Mrs. Sheldon provided the following information.

- ✓ The Gefvert's came from Sweden in the 1800's and immigrated to Minnesota, and moved to Fresno due to health reasons.
- ✓ Mrs. Sheldon is the granddaughter of Ben Gefvert.
- ✓ Thompson grapes, Washington navel oranges and almonds are grown on the farm, and the farm has been in operation by the same family over 100 years.
- ✓ Mrs. Sheldon wants to preserve the Queen Anne palms located on the property. Queen Anne palms are a variety of palm trees that were popular in the Victorian era.
- ✓ The Highway 180 project threatens to cut the farm in half. Caltrans is projecting the 180 extension will probably take another 10 years. The current construction ends on Brawley and Whitesbridge.
- ✓ Theodore Kearney and Ben Gefvert were friends, and Mr. Kearney sometimes visited the house.

Based on the information above, Commissioners suggested that Mrs. Sheldon provide two applications; one to place the property on the list of Centennial Farms and the other to place the property on the List of Historic Places. There was some discussion about checking with Caltrans to add to the historical information on the application. This application was continued to the next meeting.

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8. Report from Subcommittee to consider establishing a Centennial Cities or Communities Component

The subcommittee is continuing to work on this project. They are gathering information that includes other names, dates of establishment of ferry, railroad, post office, and the community recognized founding date.

9. Landmarks

a) Inventory of Historic Sites in Fresno County

1) Pending Applications - Update

a) Velasco House, 20931 S. Kingston, Laton

Mr. Bill Secrest Jr. researching records to provide the information that is still outstanding.

2) Applications Under Review

a) Fresno County Hall of Records Update – A professional photographer was hired to take photos for the application in the format required by the State of California. Mr. John Powell is working with Mr. Bill Secrest Jr. to write the narrative.

3) Suggestions for other applications

a) Arco Garage – Mrs. Bosch Cobb gave a historical overview of the garage. In January 2005 the Board of Supervisors approved the sale of the garage to the Fresno City & County Historical Society. The Society planned to preserve the building and use it for parking for the Downtown Club, but those plans fell through. The Society's new partners for the project are Mr. Chris Johnson and Mr. Bruce Owdom.

Mr. John Navarette wants to meet with the Historical Society before the Commission considers the garage for the List of Historic Places. Commissioners Taylor and Pappas, Mrs. Bosch Cobb, Ms. Jill Moffat, Mr. Bruce Owdom, and Mr. Chris Johnson will be invited to the meeting. Mr. Johnson is the architect who restored the train station.

b) Centennial Businesses – None.

c) Discussion of threatened buildings in downtown Fresno – The new owners of the Fresno Hotel contacted Ms. Laval for photos of the original interior to design a historically accurate lobby. Mr. Barile commented about Mr. Chris Johnson's interview on KVPR regarding his involvement with the restoration of the Virginia Hotel.

d) Discussion of threatened buildings in the County of Fresno – No discussion.

10. Reports and Administrative Action Items

a) Chairman's Report

1) Sesquicentennial Book – The book is selling well, and Chairman McFarland commended committee members Mr. Bill Secrest Jr., Ms. Elizabeth Laval and Ms. Cathy Rehart for their fine work.



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- 2) Field Trips
  - a) Fresno County – Commissioner Baltierra and Mrs. Bosch Cobb will get together and come back with a proposal for a spring field trip to the Firebaugh area.
  - b) Leland Stanford Mansion – Commissioner Raven is working on coordinating a private tour of the Leland Stanford Mansion in Sacramento. She asked people to bring their calendars to the January meeting in order to try to select a date in February.
  - c) Vice-Chairman's Report - Mrs. Bosch Cobb read a report from Mr. Taylor who was on vacation in Hawaii.
- b) Secretary's Report
  - 1) Attendance Report – A printed report was distributed to all Commissioners.
  - 2) Status of Vacancies
    - a) There are currently five vacancies on the Commission. Ms. Laval is sending and Mr. David Berkey are submitting applications for appointment to the Commission. Mr. Berkey is an assistant history professor at CSU Fresno.
- c) Commissioner Reports - Commissioner Peg Bos announced the Enchanted Evening event to be held in Clovis after tonight's meeting. Mrs. Raven has been talking to John Bonadelle about getting the first Bonadelle house on the local register. Mrs. Bosch Cobb will invite Mrs. Nancy Marquez from Arte Americas to bring the display of the Cultural District to a Commission meeting.

11. Announcements

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 17, 2008. Location to be announced. The March 20 meeting conflicts with Easter vacations. Easter Sunday is March 23. The Commission will consider meeting on a different date.

12. Adjourn – There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.