



HISTORIC MONUMENT — Termed an "outstanding example of the late Victorian period in Los Angeles," this picturesque residence at 4425 N. Figueroa St. has been declared an historic-cultural monument by the city cultural heritage board.

Bessie Hale home declared historic monument by board

By Ridgely Cummings

The "Bessie Hale" residence at 4425 N. Figueroa St. was declared "Historic - Cultural Monument No. 40" last June 15 by the city cultural heritage board.

Purpose of the action was to save the structure from possible demolition.

According to Raymond Girvigian, chairman of the his-

toric buildings committee of the Southern California chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the present owner wants to dispose of the historic old house as soon as possible.

In his report to the cultural heritage board, Girvigian wrote:

"This residence, purchased by James and Bessie Hale

about 1901, is a wood frame structure having exterior clapboard siding accented with fish scale shingles and cast plaster ornament around the main, east facade windows and pediments.

Bessie Hale

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OTHER FEATURES

"Other notable features include a veranda at the north-east corner having turned wood posts with curved wood bracket caps and milled balusters and an ornamental iron rail on its roof.

"It has brick chimneys with incised geometric detail and corbelled projections at top and a second floor turret window at the southeast corner, also curved wood brackets at the second floor cornice."

Girvigan reported that Bessie Hale had been the sole and continuous owner since 1901 until her recent death at the age of 97. He said she left the property to her niece, Odena Johnson, "who has stated her interest in disposing of it as soon as possible."

Ileana Welch, secretary to the cultural heritage board, told Northeast Publications that Mrs. Hale had died within the past few weeks. She said Odena Johnson is the sole heir and lives in Santa Monica.

DEMOLITION DELAY

By declaring the structure an historical monument the cultural heritage board can delay demolition for a period of from six months to a year, depending upon backing by the city art commission which appoints cultural heritage board members.

In adding the house to its

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list of untouchable city buildings the board gave the following reasons:

"This picturesque structure is an outstanding example of the late Victorian period in Los Angeles.

"Its prime significance is that it perhaps best embodies the essence of, or most typical features of, this historical style in one given example.

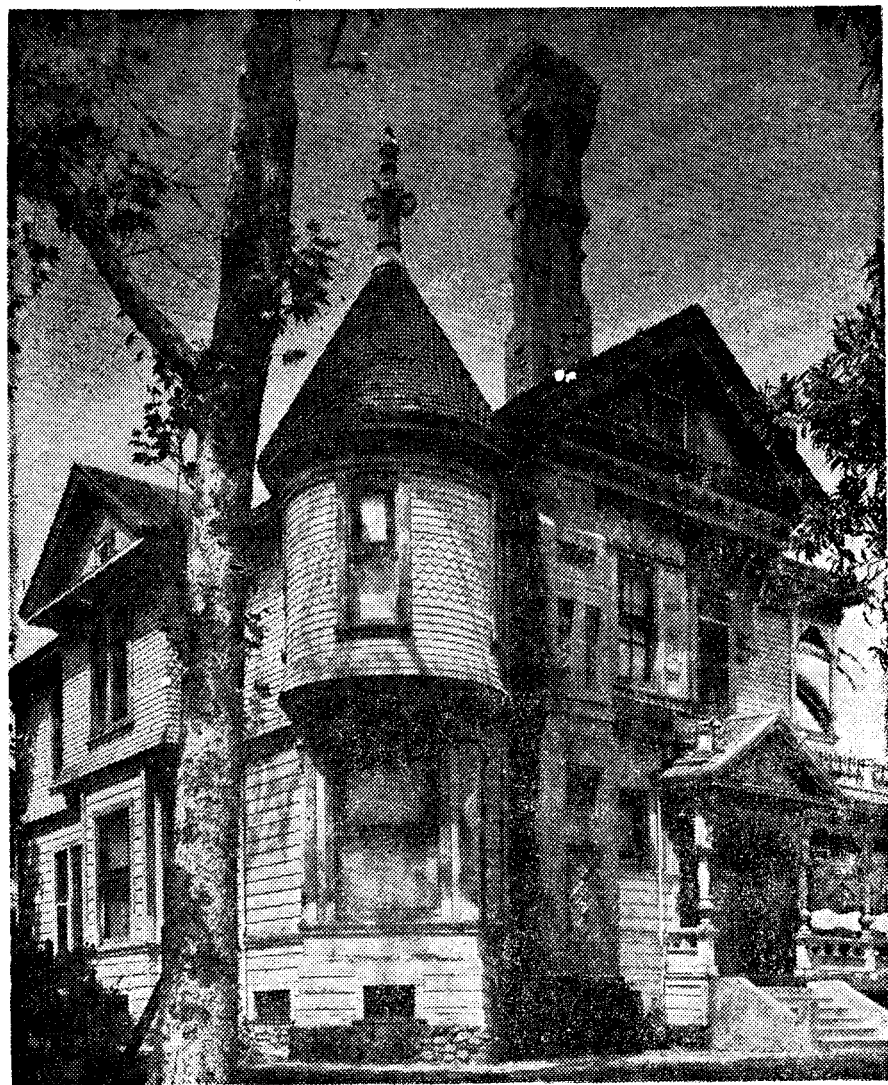
"The building incorporates the ornate carving of wood, both inside and out, that is fast disappearing. The chimney is characteristic of the high Victorian 'town house' of the period, and the workmanship compares with that of the best built mansions on the old Bunker Hill."

Girvigan wrote that the house is little changed inside and out since its early days.

He said it is in the "picturesque eclectic" tradition of the latter part of the 19th century. It has "exuberance in ornamentation and detailing without academic rules, based on borrowed styles and forms of the past but mixed in unrestrained though often inventive and charming ways and fine craftsmanship."

William Woollett, an architect and a member of the cultural heritage board, urged his fellows to vote for its preservation, saying it represented an architectural style "fast disappearing not only in California but all over the country."

Edith Gibbs Vaughan, president of the board, signed the preservation order.



WOODEN MASTERPIECE STILL STANDS IN THE MIDST OF PROGRESS
Cultural Heritage Board recently declared it a historic monument

CARPENTER'S GOTHIC *Victorian Style*

By **JOHN BRYAN**
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Los Angeles, which has been mostly a one-story stucco town ever since its Mexican Pueblo days, has a very special place in its heart for the multi-story, wooden masterpieces of the Victorian era.

There weren't many built. And most of those which did go up, have been torn down in recent years.

One of the most elegant examples of "Carpenter Gothic" is the residence, 4425 N. Figueroa St., which stands at the edge of the once fashionable Mount Washington district, a turn-of-the-century resort connected by rail with Los Angeles half a dozen miles away.

The old mansion, recently declared a historic-cultural monument by the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board, draws startled stares from nearly everyone who passes by for the first time.

Featuring a three-story, highly ornate and original brick chimney and a "corner turret" crowned with giant copper fleur-de-lys, the building dates from the 1880s and is believed to have been associated with the old Page School for Girls which once stood directly across 44th Avenue. The school is gone but the house, once fated for demolition to make way for a chrome and steel gas station, remains.

Nearly every window features a trim of stained glass. The front

porch is scalloped with wrought iron fencing seldom seen this side of New Orleans.

The building stands over a full basement and the foundation walls are constructed of native stone, giving it a curious blend of "native California" and Victorian concepts.

Inside, its 10 rooms have high ceilings (gas fixtures may still be seen throughout). The "front living room" (houses of that era had two) . . . the parlor, featuring a piano, was where family musicales could be held, has large folding doors and leather paneling.

Large quantities of ornate, hand-carved wood decorate the house, both inside and out.

The Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects recently called the house "an outstanding example of the late Victorian Period in Los Angeles . . . one that best embodies the essence of, or most typical features of, this historical style in one given example."

The house was purchased by Michael and Bessie Hale in 1901. Mrs. Hale died last month and disposition of the property is still pending. Under Cultural Heritage rules, a historic monument cannot be demolished for six months to a year after a demolition permit is applied for. The board seeks to find a means of preserving it during this time.

(Next week: The "California House" at 1425 Miramar St.)

Hale House 1-1-70 saved from demolition

The Hale House at 4425 N. Figueroa St., which has been declared an historical monument by the Cultural Heritage Board, was saved last Tuesday from demolition for another six months by the Los Angeles City Council.

The council unanimously approved a report from the building and safety committee suspending the demolition permit for knocking down the example of Gay 90 architecture at Ave. 45 until July 18, 1970.

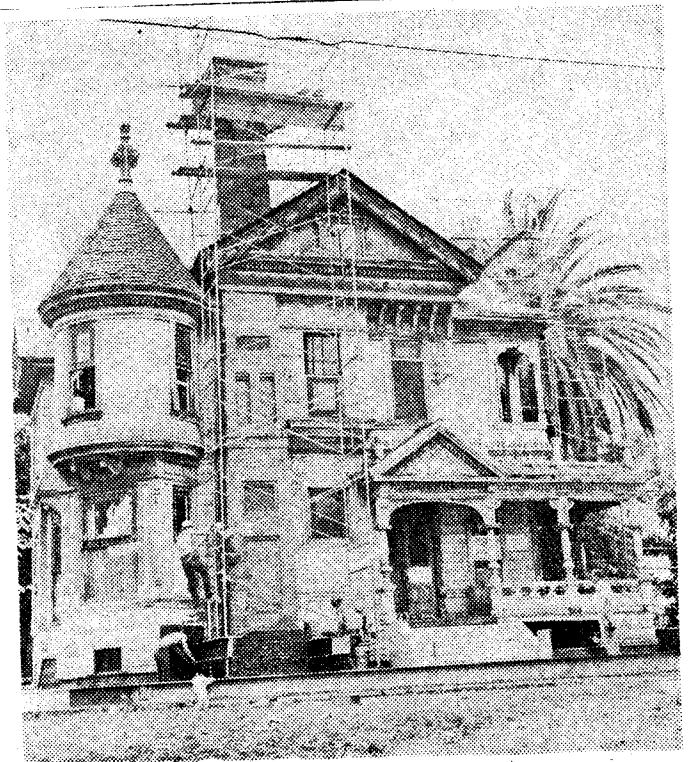
The Cultural Heritage Board reported to the City Art Commission, which carried the word along to the city council, that it hopes to relocate the building to Heritage Square in Northeast LA before the July date.

The last two buildings relocated to Heritage Square were burned to the ground by vandals.

From Municipal Arts Newsletter Winter 1970



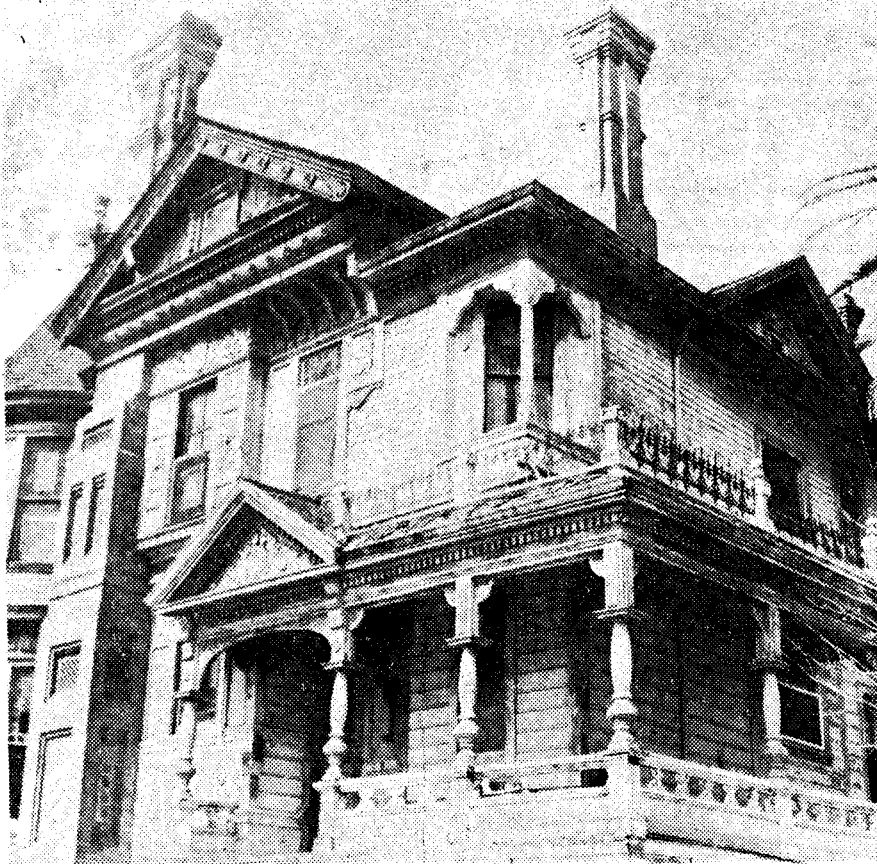
THE VICTORIAN-ERA Hale House, current restoration project of the Cultural Heritage Foundation, Inc. It is hoped that the elegant mansion will form the nucleus of the turn-of-the-century street called Heritage Square being created at Avenue 43 and the Pasadena Freeway.



Ready to move

Workmen brace the old Hale House mansion preparatory to moving it from its current location on N. Figueroa St. to Heritage Square. Two ancient mansions moved from Bunker Hill to the planned reconstruction of the Victorian era, Heritage Square, were burned down by vandals and a new beginning will be made on the project with the Hale House. Another old mansion, now on Johnson St. in Lincoln Heights, is also expected to be moved to the square when funds permit.

7-5-70



HERITAGE SQUARE HOMES — Heritage Square, a strip of land at Ave. 43 and Homer St. in Highland Park, will have two new residents, if plans now under way by the Cultural Heritage Board develop. The board plans to move the Hale House (left) from 4425 N. Figueroa St. to the Square during the month of May, and last week it declared a house at 1926 Johnston St. in Lincoln Heights (right) a historical monument, with plans to move it to the square next. They will replace the Salt Box and the Castile, two Bunker Hill mansions which were burned by vandals shortly after being moved to the Square.

Plans made to move two Heritage Square homes

As plans continued to move the old Highland Park landmark Hale House onto Heritage Square next month, the Cultural Heritage Board last week declared another old home a historical monument.

A two-story 11-room home at 1926 Johnston St. in Lincoln Heights became the city's 65th declared historical landmark last week, preventing its demolition for one full year.

Frank Taylor, spokesman for the Cultural Heritage Board, said that the private foundation connected with the CHB hopes to raise enough funds during

its year grace period to relocate the Johnson St. house onto Heritage Square, a strip of park land at Ave. 43 and Homer St. on which it is hoped a block out of turn-of-the-century Los Angeles can be recreated.

HALE HOUSE

Taylor said that right now the foundation and the Heritage Square committee are concentrating on moving the Hale House, located at 4425 N. Figueroa St.

He said their original goal was to be moved by May 1, but

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He said the home is an example of 19th Century Mansard style architecture, but the first owner of record is Joseph S. Lord, a Los Angeles miner, they now hope to be out of who either bought it or moved there some time during the month of May.

He quoted Ray Girvigan, Taylor said the foundation state preservation coordinator will then turn its attention to of the American Institute of the Johnston St. house; which, Architects, as saying that the in addition to fulfilling the ne-building's work craftsmanship cessary qualifications of age and detail are "noteworthy," and architectural worth, would and "one of the last examples" be comparatively inexpensive to move.

Taylor said that no city funds will be used to move either building. The first two buildings located in Heritage Square, the Castle and the Salt Box, were moved from Bunker Hill with the aid of funds from the city, and burned down shortly after being relocated.

Heritage Square

(Continued from Page 1)



Heritage house

This two-story, eleven-room residence at 1926 Johnson St. will become the second house in Heritage Square, located at the end of Homer St. near Ave. 43 in Highland Park, when the Cultural Heritage Board moves in on Feb. 17. It will join the Hale House.



Heritage Square grows

The Hale House (left) has a new companion at Heritage Square this week following arrival of Johnston Street residence. The Johnston house was moved from 1926 Johnson St. last Thursday but got stuck in mud following rain. Final leg of journey to 3800 Homer St. was completed Monday. Both houses were built in 1880s and are the forerunners of a hoped-for historical complex of early vintage homes that will be a major cultural attraction.

2/25/71

Heritage group eyes LH mansion

11-1-70

since, as no one is living in the house, vandals are doing their thing. The owner has boarded up the windows but still invaders are getting in and doing damage."

A group of private citizens was working last week to find a companion house to the Hale House recently moved to Heritage Square in Highland Park and one of them thinks he has found it.

Ray Phillips, president of the Cultural Heritage Foundation Inc. which raised \$30,000 to move the Hale House from Avenue 45 and North Figueroa Street, said the companion house is in Lincoln Heights.

Said Phillips: "Foundation members have been very busy traveling up and down old Los Angeles streets looking for companions to the Hale House and we have found one.

"The 'Johnston House' on Johnston Street in Lincoln Heights is a jewel, probably built in the 1880s. It is two-storied with a magnificent mansard roof.

LUCKY BUY

"Lady Luck is again on our side as the owner of the house was about to sell it, primarily for the land.

"Amazingly, the new owner works for the city in the bureau of street maintenance. He is very sympathetic with our cause and is willing to give us the house if we will move it.

"This must be done very soon

Phillips said funds to move the house will be raised at an auction August 8 to be held at Heritage Square.

Hours will be between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., he said.

Heritage Square is located at the end of Homer Street near Avenue 43 and the Pasadena Freeway.

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LIKELY PROSPECT — The Johnston House at 1926 Johnston St. is being studied by the Cultural Heritage Foundation as a likely prospect for the second Heritage Square home. It purchased the Lincoln Heights house, built in the 1880s and described as "a real jewel," will join the Hale House at the Square, located at the end of Homer St., near Avenue 43 and the Pasadena Freeway.

7-26-70

Heritage Square

Approve second house moving

Approval of a Cultural Heritage Board request to locate a second old house in the Heritage Square area of Arroyo Seco Park was voted last Thursday by the city park commission.

The residence in question is now boarded up and vacant at 1926 Johnston Street in Lincoln Heights.

Architects who advise the Cultural Board on historical monuments have called the Johnston Street house one of the few remaining examples of the 1880s Mansard style construction.

COSTS

Ileana Welch, secretary of the CHB, said it will cost about \$7000 to move the house from Lincoln Heights to the Square at the end of Homer Street near Avenue 43.

There it will join the Hale House, which was moved in several months ago from its home of 80 years on Figueroa Street at Avenue 45.

Mrs. Welch said it cost \$10,300 to move the Hale house to Heritage Square. It also cost \$3000 for raising wires so the house could pass under, she said.

The non-profit Cultural Heritage Foundation Inc. which raises money for historic purposes had to borrow to pay the moving costs plus the cost of putting a foundation under the Hale House and putting a new roof on it.

Mrs. Welch said the Foundation cur-

Heritage Square

(Continued from Page 1)

rently is getting bids from contractors on the new roof, which it is hoped will be put on before the winter rains start.

As soon as these expenses are paid from public donations, the Foundation will start raising the \$7000 for the moving of the Johnston Street house, she said. Hopefully this second move will take place before Christmas.