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ADOLFO V. NODAL
GENERAL MANAGER

Cult. Her. Fnd. of So. Cal., *INC.*
~~100 S. Los Robles Ave. #470~~
~~Pasadena, CA 91101~~

RE: Monument Number 40
Hale House, Heritage Square
3800 Homer St.

Dear Monument Owner,

The Cultural Heritage Commission is in the process of verifying the ownership of all Historic-Cultural Monuments and is enlisting your cooperation toward that goal. It would be very helpful to us if you would take a moment of your time to fill in the blanks below and return this letter in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you in advance for your effort.

Very truly yours,

J. De Milten
JAMES McMILLEN
Cultural Heritage Staff

Kindly check the box that applies and provide the information requested.
Type or print clearly.

- The ownership address as shown above is correct.
- The ownership address as shown above is incorrect and should be changed to the following.

Please give us a number where you can be reached during business hours.

(_____) _____ - _____
area code

name HERITAGE SQUARE MUSEUM
street address BUSINESS OFFICE
225 South Lake Ave., Ste. 1100
city, state Pasadena, California 91101

Respondent's Name _____

12/91



#40

This information was sent by Charlie Fisher in September 1992 and was subsequently entered into the data base. If it no longer agrees with the data base it is because since that time we have found reason to believe this information to be incorrect.

Monument Number 40, designated as Hale House, Heritage Square is located at 3800 Homer St.

This monument was designed by architect W. R. Norton.

HISTORICAL MONUMENT

DATE: _____
~~NO.~~ NO. 40

RANGE OF ADDRESSES 3800 HOMER ST

NAME OF MONUMENT HALE HOUSE HERITAGE SQUARE

Between _____ and _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lot No. _____ Block _____ Tract MR 2-504 Arb _____

County Ref. No. _____

DISTRICT OFFICE: _____

DISTRICT MAP NO: 144B221

INSTRUCTION: HERITAGE SQUARE

RICK BECKER
Zoning Engineer

R3:ss

Rcd.
4-5-93
lm

The Story of the Hale House

by David G. Cameron

If it is not completely settled that the Morgans lived in the house, it is certain that William F. Obear and family resided there. The 1890 City Directory shows Obear residing on Pasadena Ave. "near Floral," and the 1891 Directory indicates he lived on Pasadena Ave. "near city limits." (In the latter edition, his occupation was shown as a "capitalist.") He did enjoy the house long; by May 1893 his widow, Eliza U. Obear, was obtaining a Decree of Final distribution of her late husband's estate. This included "The Obear residence, situated on Pasadena Ave., home place, \$10,000.00 . . ." followed by a legal description confirming its identity.

Mrs. Obear lost no time in disposing of the property, trading it to Sarah A. (Mrs. Charles W.) Blaisdell for some country acreage that July. Mrs. Blaisdell conveyed it to Margaret B. Hobbs the following January. Mrs. Hobbs (identified in 1895 as the widow of Frank W. Hobbs) may have been Mr. Blaisdell's sister as the City Directories from 1894 to 1896 show both living at "nw cor. Pasadena av. and Floral."

Mrs. Hobbs sold the property in late April 1898 to Spencer R. Thorpe for an undisclosed price. It is known that she

took back a mortgage on the property to secure a \$4,500.00 note bearing 11% interest in partial payment; this indebtedness was paid off on schedule two years later.

Capt. Thorpe, as he was often known, was a great-great-grandson of Patrick Henry. Born in Louisville, Ky. on January 20, 1842, he attended St. Joseph's College in Bardstown. During the War Between the States, he served with the Confederates in Col. John W. Morgan's Second Kentucky Calvary, reaching the rank of acting Captain. After the war, he settled in Marksville, La.; there he studied law, was admitted to the bar, and married Helena Barbin (b. March 1850) in 1868. They moved to California in 1883, and settled on a ranch near Ventura by 1886. Although they lived in Los Angeles after 1889, his 150-acre Ventura County walnut grove remained a major interest. The Thorpe family sold the house in 1901. Capt. Thorpe died September 1, 1905, and Mrs. Thorpe on August 12, 1935; they had three sons and two daughters.

Photographs in the possession of their descendants confirm that their residence (4501 Pasadena Ave.) is indeed one and the same as the "Hale House."

After Capt. Thorpe, the house passed through the hands of several owners: George Wilson, Sr. (March 1901 to April 1902), Andrew Muirhead Wilson (to October 1903), and Joseph N. Hagins (to May 1904). W. H. Obear (possibly Wil-

liam F.'s son Winston H.) purchased it in May 1904. E. K. Potter owned it from an unknown date to July 1904, and Archibald Douglass purchased it in July 1904.

During these years, the City Directories contain "reverse directories" by address, which show 4501 Pasadena Ave. as "vacant" in 1902-1904 and not listed at all in 1905; presumably being sold on speculation in this period.

Meanwhile, the second parcel with the hundred-foot frontage to the northeast on Pasadena Ave. had been held for nearly a decade by David Brehaut and his wife Annie, to whom he gave it in 1893. In the spring of 1898 they sold it to Archibald Douglass for \$1,215.00.

Archibald Douglass had been born in Iowa in April 1859 and his wife, Frances I., was born in Missouri in August 1864; they had two sons and a daughter. Around the turn of the century he is listed as president of the Los Angeles Stoneware Co.; later he would be affiliated with clay pipe manufacturing concerns. In August 1899 he contracted for a two-story frame dwelling to be built on his parcel (4513 Pasadena Ave.) by architect Lester S. Moore. The main construction contract (\$4,085.00) was completed on January 24, 1900; other contracts covering painting (\$414.00) and plumbing (\$358.80). The Douglass family lived there for over a decade.

As previously noted, "Anita Terrace" on the other side of Avenue 45, was

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to these new members.

Margaret L. Smith
Virginia Gonzalez
Merry D. Franzen
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May 5, 1984 — Tour of San Diego

■ Leaving by car from Heritage Square, at 8:00 a.m., our tour group will travel to San Diego to the Villa Montezuma Museum, where a docent will guide us through this Queen Anne style building. From Villa Montezuma, we will go to the Hotel del Coronado (built in 1886) for a tour and lunch. Then back over the Coronado Bridge to see several interesting Victorian parts of San Diego. Finally, we will take a tour of the Whaley House and wander through Old Town and Heritage Park.

COST: \$16.00 PER PERSON, MEALS NOT INCLUDED

RSVP: Tour is limited to 25 people, so please respond as soon as possible.
Information: Sonja Grisbach, (818) 351-9172; Heritage Square, (213) 222-3150.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephones: Work () _____ Home () _____

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CULTURAL HERITAGE
FOUNDATION, INC. MAIL CHECKS AND ABOVE TEAR OFF TO:
3800 HOMER STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90031.

Rec'd 5/3/84



James Gordon Hale



Mrs. Bessie Hale

back a mortgage to secure a \$3,750.00 note in partial payment. The Eldon company (whose secretary was E. K. Potter, who had briefly owned the house in 1904) sold it to James G. Hale, a native of Ireland, at April. Hale assumed the obligation to pay the note to Douglass; records show that \$1,000.00 was paid in June 1908 and the balance in October 1910.

When he died on August 15, 1921, at about age 51, James Gordon Hale's occupation was given as "deputy sheriff". He was at the time separated from his wife, Bessie, who was living at 4425. She continued to occupy the "Hale House" for years afterward.

Published by the
Cultural Heritage Foundation, Inc.
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(213) 222-3150

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Heritage Square

Project Director Donald A. Watson
Executive Director Sharon L. Shaw

subdivided in 1904. Its owners, Edward D. Silent and Francis J. Thomas, sold Lot 6 (the corner lot) to one P.F. Johnson, who immediately resold it to Archibald Douglass; all this took place in July of 1904.

These deeds provided that the land could only be used for a "first-class residence" costing at least \$3,500.00, fronting on Pasadena Ave. and set back at least 35 feet from the street.

The stage was now set to move the "Hale House" from 4501 to 4425; this was probably accomplished by the fall of 1904 to avoid the rainy season. When the County Assessor's office assessed the value of the properties the following March, 4501 was an empty lot and there were improvements on 4425. Since the vacated property remained so long as Douglass owned it, we can only guess

that he went to all this trouble to give his family the luxury of a 100-foot side yard—perhaps developed as an elegant garden. Furthermore, Douglass acquired 100 feet of frontage on the other side of his house (at 4513) by deeds of 1899 and 1902, thus giving him a most substantial estate with 300 feet of frontage on Pasadena Ave. and over 400 feet deep back to the railroad right-of-way.

After moving from its house at 4513 Pasadena Ave., the Douglass family resided in South Pasadena and the property was used as a girls' school; the house is now long gone and a Lucky supermarket occupies the site. Archibald Douglass died on August 3, 1949 at age 90.

After holding onto 4425 briefly, Douglass sold it to the Eldon Land and Building Company in February 1906, taking

On the Square

CULTURAL HERITAGE
FOUNDATION
3800 Homer Street
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Cultural Heritage Board
City Hall, Room 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90012

V b. HALE HOUSE (c.1885)

This house, originally at the corner of Figueroa and Avenue 45 in Highland Park, is a notable example of late nineteenth-century architecture. It has been pictured in a number of books, most recently in Marcus Whiffen's American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles (p. 114). Whiffen describes it as "Queen Anne" referring to its relationship to the revival of the style of rural architecture of the early English Renaissance where classical details were applied to the irregular plans and massing of late medieval country houses. The principal exponent of this revival (1870's) in England was Richard Norman Shaw. The Hale House retains vestiges of Shaw's personal style in the tall, sculptured brick chimneys (now carefully stored for future rebuilding) and second story covered with shingles in patterns, reflecting Shaw's similar use of tiles.

Other decoration, particularly in the detail of the porch suggests another English influence -- Charles Lock Eastlake whose book, Hints on Household Taste (first American edition, 1872), was read widely in America in the late nineteenth century. Eastlake was an interior decorator whose advice on "sincere" furniture was in tune with the strong moralism of the Victorian era. It is amusing that in America his ideas for interior decoration were applied to the exterior treatment, a practice which Eastlake deplored. The use of the gouge and lathe, associated with the Eastlake style, is very apparent on the Hale House columns which look like table legs. If the house must be given a stylistic category, the most exact attribution would be Queen Anne-Eastlake.

The interior of the Hale House (we know neither original owner nor architect) is pure Eastlake. The asymmetrical entrance hall with its tiled fireplace and beautifully carved staircase would have the total approval of Eastlake, as would the procession of rooms -- front parlor, sitting room and dining room -- with their "honest" details and "heart-felt" forms. It should be noted that these interiors, which in their present stripped-down state may seem to be conventionally "Victorian," were decorated in a different manner from the heavy interiors of the mid-century. An Oriental influence, recognized by Eastlake, can be noticed in some details of the fireplaces but particularly in the attempt, through great expanses of windows, to get large amounts of light into the rooms.

When restored, the rooms will be furnished in the Eastlake manner. Some furniture in this style is already in place. Oriental throw rugs (an attack on wall-to-wall Brussels carpets) will be used. Peacock feathers in Oriental vases will elevate the sensibilities of the visitor to these "aesthetic" interiors. Wall-papers will in some cases be copied and restored, in others taken from the works of William Morris and his followers.

We do not know precisely how the interiors looked in 1885, but the aim in restoration will be to make the Hale House representative of the best work of its style and period.

HERITAGE SQUARE

V 3 HALE HOUSE

Previously located at the edge of the once fashionable Mount Washington district, this picturesque residence, built in the 1880's, exemplifies the flamboyant phase of that period -- which has been called "Picturesque Eclectic."

Declared a historic-cultural monument by the Cultural Heritage Board of the City of Los Angeles in 1966, the residence is exuberant in ornamentation and detailing. It features highly ornate brick chimneys, much exterior and interior wood carving, and some stained glass. This wood frame building has exterior clapboard siding accented with fish scale shingles and cast plaster ornaments around the main facade windows and pediments. Its corner turret is crowned with a giant copper fleur-de-lis.

Inside, its ten rooms have high ceilings. Some interior hardwood paneling remains and original gaslight fixtures will illuminate the house when restoration is completed. Five beautiful fireplaces remain in the house.

Owned by Bessie and James Hale from 1906 until Bessie's death in 1966, the building was subsequently acquired by the Cultural Heritage Foundation, Inc., for \$1.00 and moved to Heritage Square on July 14, 1970. Mr. Hale was connected with Eastside Brewery.

Original wallpaper, discovered after peeling away several layers, will be reproduced.

Eastlake styling throughout, as seen in fireplaces, overmantels, door and window frames, staircase. Evident in vertical feeling, lack of curves, incised lines and design patterns.

Dadoes are pressed paneling masonite.

Oriental screen in front parlor belongs to Mrs. Odena Johnson, who lived in the house after the death of Mrs. Hale; it is not part of the original interior furnishings.

The house has two parlors; a front parlor which was a formal sitting room frequently closed off from the rest of the house, and a back parlor which was the family sitting room. The front parlor was used for special occasions such as funerals, minister's visits, etc.

The dining room has built-in bookcases. It is the room at the rear, behind the back parlor; a swinging door leads to the kitchen.

The stairway divides at the landing, one portion leading to the kitchen, the other to the entry hall and front parlor.

Molded plaster light rosettes are original.

Doors downstairs are solid redwood; doors upstairs are plain pine which has been painted and grained.

Transoms provided light for the hall.

Marble sinks may be seen upstairs and down.

The master bedroom is upstairs, at the front of the house, where the turret is located.

Upstairs closets have alternate light and dark paneling.

Bedrooms interconnect without occupants having to go into hall.

Bedroom behind master bedroom will be caretaker's room; room across hall will be kitchen, but was formerly maid's room. Hole in hall outside door was for speaker horn by which maid could be summoned from kitchen directly below.

Fireplace fixtures are nickel-plated brass. Doors at openings called summerfronts, as they could close off the fireplace during warm weather and be removed when the fireplace was in use. Upper portion of fireplace with mirror is the overmantel.

Some of the original furniture is now in storage and will be used in the interior.

Work is being done by volunteers and through donations from the public. The restoration is a project of the Cultural Heritage Foundation, Inc., an adjunct of the Cultural Heritage Board of the City of Los Angeles.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER / THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

June 13, 1966

CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD
City Hall Room 1500
Los Angeles, California 90012

BESSIE HALE RESIDENCE
4425 N. FIGUEROA ST.
LA. 90065

Honorable Members:

Presented herewith is a preliminary draft of the Library of Congress, HABS report on the above landmark. We are submitting this report together with our recommendation that this structure be included in the City's list of Historic Monuments.

The reasons for submission at this time include:

1. It is an outstanding example of the late Victorian period in Los Angeles, particularly with respect to the flamboyant phase of this period which may be called California Picturesque Eclectic. Its prime significance is that it perhaps best embodies the essence of or most typical features of this historical style in one given example. Its notable features are briefly described in the enclosed report but in general it should be mentioned that it is a fine example of craftsmanship, both hand and machine, typical of its time.
2. Bessie Hale who, with her husband James, purchased the house from a previous owner in about 1901, has been the sole and continuous owner since her husband died many years ago. The house is little changed since its early days. Mrs. Hale recently passed away at the age of 97, leaving the property to her niece, Odena Johnson who has stated her interest in disposing of it as soon as possible.

Therefore, whether efforts may be successful in preservation on this site or not, at least ways should be found-if possible-to save the Hale residence by relocation to an appropriate, nearby area.

Respectfully,

Raymond Girvigian, AIA
8899 Beverly Boulevard, Suite 810 Los Angeles 48, California 274-6917

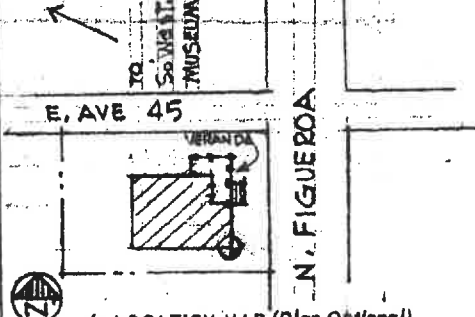

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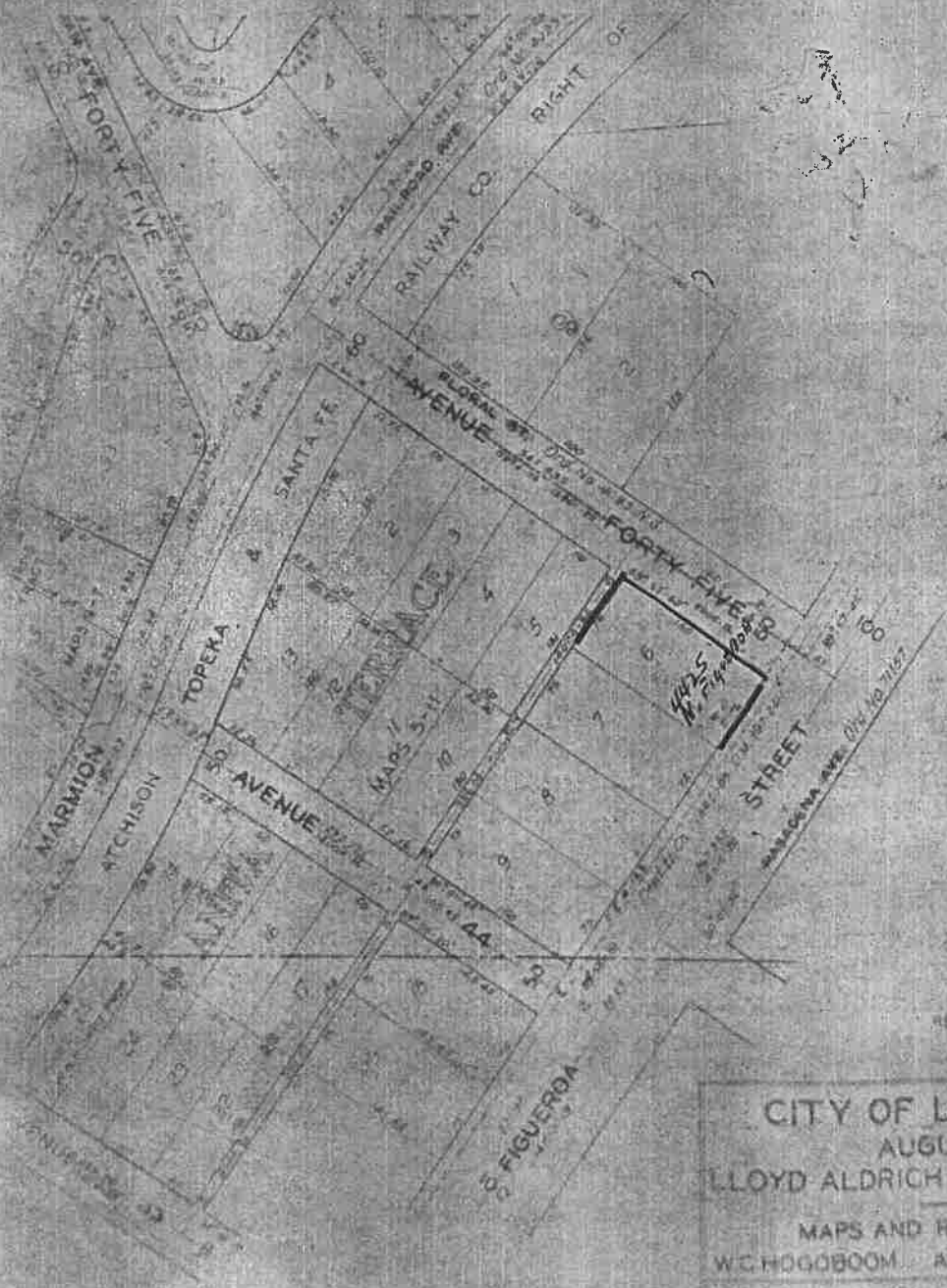
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rec'd
6/15/66

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

STATE California COUNTY Los Angeles TOWN Los Angeles VICINITY Highland Park STREET NO. 4425 N. Figueora ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Residence PRESENT OWNER Estate of Bessie Hale PRESENT USE Residence WALL CONSTRUCTION Wood frame NO. OF STORIES 2 & bsmt., attic dormers	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY 1. NAME Bessie Hale Residence DATE OR PERIOD Late 19th Century STYLE Victorian (Picturesque Eclectic) ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION. OPEN TO PUBLIC No <p>This late 19th Century structure is perhaps the best remaining example of the flamboyant Victorian period which the historian Alan Gowans calls, "Picturesque Eclectic." It is an epitome of this style as it developed locally in the latter part of the 19th Century. It is characterized by its picturesqueness thru: use of asymmetry, 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.</p> <p>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. Other notable features include: a Meranda at the N.E. corner having turned wood posts with curved wood bracket caps and milled ballusters and an ornamental iron rail on its roof; brick chimneys with incised geometric detail and corbelled projections at top; a 2nd floor turret window at the S.E. corner; & curved, wood brackets at the 2nd floor cornice.</p> <p>Some interior hardwood paneling remains as well as original gas light fixtures. Also some of the Hales period furniture is partly on the premises and partly in possession of the niece, Odena Johnson.</p> <p>The Hale residence stands today as a symbol to the transitional transitional Victorian age as it passed from a rural society of the 19th Century towards a growing industrial, urban America of the 20th Century. It is little changed from the original and should be preserved as an exceptional architectural type-specimen. <u>exterior-fair</u></p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Interior	
 <p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p>	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. Interviews by R. Girvigan with Odena Johnson 6/12/66, (executrix and niece of Bessie Hale)	9. NAME Raymond Girvigan, AIA Preservation Officer, So. Calif. Chapter, AIA DATE OF RECORD June 1966



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