



LANTERMAN HOUSE

NEWSLETTER

SPRING ~ 2022

LANTERMAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION

4420 Encinas Drive
 La Cañada Flintridge
 CA 91011
(818) 790-1421
 lanternmanhouse@gmail.com

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday/Thursdays
 Sunday (1st and 3rd)
 1:00 to 4:00pm
 Reservation only
 @ www.lanternmanhouse.org
 Closed Holidays

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Village Smithy and Barbecue King: Jim Huntington



Courtesy of the Joy Wilson Collection at the Lanternman House.

Flyleaf, "Joan Crawford gets some barbecue pointers from Jim Huntington," The A, B, C's of How to Barbecue Successfully by Jim Huntington, 1950.

Jim Huntington was an extremely talented La Cañadan who was known both as the "Village Smithy" and the legendary "Barbecue King." Born in 1893 in upstate New York, Huntington grew up in Colorado, where he learned to cook meat on an open fire. Like many early La Cañadans, he came to Southern California on the advice of his doctor after having suffered three attacks of pneumonia while living in Colorado.

(continued on page 6)

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

We enjoyed an “almost normal” return to programming this fall at the Lanterman House, only to start off the new year by temporarily pausing our tours. As this newsletter goes to press, we are hoping to resume our small, in-person house tours later in the month and outside events later in the spring.

This spring, we are enjoying the results of our archivist’s behind-the-scenes efforts to catalog and preserve our collections. Julie Yamashita spent all last year working on a grant project, funded by the California State Library, to catalog and preserve our historic building photographs. Her diligent efforts uncovered many fascinating images and history. For our initial project using this collection, we decided to focus on the work of African American architect Paul Revere Williams, who designed several dozen houses in this area. Julie is curating an online exhibition about the topic, and we are hoping to host an in-person panel discussion about the architect in May. Please follow our Facebook or Instagram account for the most up-to-date tour and event information!

~ Laura Verlaque

NEW ONLINE EXHIBITION

Opening February 2022

During 2021, a grant from the California State Library allowed archivist Julie Yamashita to catalog and digitize over 500 photos in the Lanterman House’s Historical Buildings Collection. This collection illustrates how the city has developed and changed from the time it was made up of two unincorporated communities, La Cañada and Flintridge, to its current state as a prosperous city. The collection consists of photographs, stereograph cards, and postcards of homes, businesses, and other buildings in La Cañada Flintridge. Materials date from 1910 to 2017, with images of historically significant buildings, including homes belonging to the founding Lanterman family and

the first church in the Crescenta-Cañada Valley. Also of note are the numerous press photographs of homes in the Flintridge Development, many of which were designed by important California architects, including Myron Hunt, Paul R. Williams, Wallace Neff, Ray Jay Kieffer, and the firm of Marston, Van Pelt, and Maybury.

The following article draws upon this collection to explore one significant architect—Paul R. Williams. More images of Williams-designed homes in this area can be found in the accompanying online exhibition, which debuts in February 2022. Please visit www.lantermanhouse.org/exhibitions.

PAUL REVERE WILLIAMS



IN LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

From the Archives...

Paul Revere Williams in La Cañada Flintridge

~Julie Yamashita, Archivist

Architect Paul Revere Williams (1894-1980) is famous for his outstanding domestic and commercial architecture in Los Angeles and throughout the United States. He was the only major African-American architect based in Southern California during a period when people of color were discouraged from entering the profession. Williams was also the first African-American to become a member of the American Institute of Architects and was the go-to architect for numerous celebrities, including Frank Sinatra, Lon Chaney, Humphrey Bogart, and Lucille Ball.

Paul Williams designed some of his earliest sumptuous homes for the wealthy when he was hired by U.S. Senator Frank Flint, who was planning out his Flintridge community in 1917. Flint was impressed by the number of architectural competitions that Williams had recently been winning. Little did he know that this was the paper boy who had sold him newspapers twelve years earlier! The Senator commissioned homes himself through this development company or referred customers that had bought lots in his subdivision.

In all, Paul Williams said that he designed 32 homes in the La Cañada Flintridge area, many of which are Spanish Colonial, Mediterranean, French, Italian, and English Style. Notable homes that are still believed to be extant include the Katherine Flint House, the James and Dorothy Degnan House, and the John Bishop and Lillian Green House. Many of Williams' houses have been past Pasadena Showcase Houses, opening their doors to visitors for charity.

Though all Williams homes have not been positively identified, the list below is drawn from research conducted by Tim Gregory, the Building Biographer, and Mary Alice Wollam of the Los Angeles Conservancy. We thank them for all their hard work and for contributing this information.

You can find a detailed self-guided tour of Paul R. Williams homes on the LA Conservancy **website: <https://www.laconservancy.org/events-tours/self-guided-tours>**.

Do you know of another Paul Williams home in the area? Or have photos of any of these addresses that you'd like to donate to the Lanterman Archives? Please contact us at lantermanarchives@gmail.com.



Paul R. Williams. Courtesy of the Security Pacific National Bank Collection, Los Angeles Public Library.



503 Dartmouth Place. La Cañada Flintridge Historical Buildings Collection.

PAUL REVERE WILLIAMS - DESIGNED



721 Berkshire Avenue (#6). La Cañada Flintridge Historical Buildings Collection.

1. 4914 ALTA CANYADA ROAD

Part of an estate, it is the main house built in 1925 in New Orleans Revival style, which was accompanied by an 1892 Victorian guest house and a barn.

2. 5200 ALTA CANYADA ROAD James & Dorothy Degnan Residence

Completed in 1929 and first owned by attorney James Degnan and his wife, Dorothy, a well-known California landscape artist. It was built in the California Spanish Colonial Revival style.

3. 3932 ALTA VISTA DRIVE

This Spanish Colonial house was built by Glenn O. Winget in 1925 for Harvey Smith.

4. 4200 BERESFORD WAY Walter D. K. & Margaret Gibson House

A 1937 French Colonial Revival style home built for philanthropist Walter Gibson, heir to a sugar fortune and creator of the Gibson Martini.

5. 640 BERKSHIRE AVENUE Douglas Mitchell House

Colonial style home in Flintridge designed Williams and built in 1923. Owned by Douglas Mitchell, brother of Standish Mitchell, CEO of the Southern California Auto Club.

6. 721 BERKSHIRE AVENUE Charles W. and Flora Hunter House

An English style Flintridge Home designed by Williams and built by Glenn O. Winget in 1924 for Charles and Flora Hunter.

7. 600 CHATHAM PLACE Flintridge Properties House

Spanish Colonial style home built in 1927 by the Flintridge Properties Company.



3718 Chevy Chase Drive (#9). La Cañada Flintridge Historical Buildings Collection.

8. 3713 CHEVY CHASE DRIVE Flintridge Company House

French style Flintridge home designed by Williams and built in 1926 for the Flintridge Company.

9. 3718 CHEVY CHASE DRIVE Joseph T. and Alice Mary Edward House

Spanish Colonial style home designed by Williams and completed in 1926 for physician Joseph Edward.

10. 3733 CHEVY CHASE DRIVE Flintridge Properties House

Spanish Colonial style home designed by Williams and built in 1926 for Flintridge Properties.

11. 4155 CHEVY CHASE DRIVE Flintridge Properties House

One of the few Flintridge model homes, built in 1934 in the Colonial revival style for Flintridge Properties.

12. 4151 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE John Bishop and Lillian Green House

English style 1927 home built as a country retreat for Long Beach rancher John Bishop and his wife Lillian Green. It was the 2010 Pasadena Showcase House of Design.

13. 503 DARTMOUTH PLACE Flintridge Properties House

Spanish Colonial style home designed by Williams and built by Glenn O. Winget in 1927 for Flintridge Properties.

14. 524 DARTMOUTH PLACE Katherine Bloss Flint House

This Colonial style home was commissioned by Senator Frank Flint's son and son-in-law, William and Henry McKay, for Flint's widow, Katherine.

HOUSES IN LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE



609 Inverness Drive (#19). La Cañada Flintridge Historical Buildings Collection.



4236 Woodleigh Lane (#26). La Cañada Flintridge Historical Buildings Collection.

15. 4163 DORSET PLACE

This Italian style home was built in 1928 for Edwin L. Martin by Glenn O. Winget.

16. 1243 FLANDERS DRIVE

This 1947 New England style home was originally designed by Williams with only one story. The second story was added much a later in 2003.

17. 4420 GOULD AVENUE Stuart M. and Lois Salisbury House

Built in 1925 for attorney Stuart and Lois Salisbury, this Spanish Colonial style home's landscape was originally designed by C. Monckton.

18. 501 GEORGIAN ROAD Robert and Anna Eckhardt House

This Colonial style home was designed by Williams and completed in 1932 for Robert and Anna Eckhardt.

19. 609 INVERNESS DRIVE Jud and Augusta Rush House

Built in 1924, this Spanish Revival style home was designed by Paul Williams and owned by Jud R. Rush and his wife Augusta.

20. 811 INVERNESS DRIVE Motley H. Flint House

A 1926 Spanish Colonial style home built for Senator Frank Flint's brother, Motley Flint, who promoted investments in the Julian Petroleum Company, which collapsed. It was discovered that he had swindled thousands of out of their money, and one investor shot him in a courtroom.

21. 519 MEADOW GROVE ST. Emile B. and Gladys Yoakum House

This Spanish Colonial style home, designed by Williams, was built in 1924 for E. B. Yoakum and built by Glenn O. Winget.

22. 4121 PEMBURY PLACE Glenn O. Winget/Colin Smith House

This 1934 Colonial style home was designed by Williams especially for Glenn O. Winget, who often built many of Williams' creations.

23. 1103 ROANOKE PLACE Edwin Walker Residence

A 1924 Spanish Colonial style home designed for Edwin Walker, originally landscaped by Helen Deusner, landscape architect.

24. 445 SOMERSET PLACE Ida May Phillips House

This Italian style home was designed by Williams and built in 1927.

25. 453 SOMERSET PLACE William H. and Josephine Harrison House

This English style home was built for William Harrison, Vice President of the Los Angeles Investment Company in 1927.

26. 4236 WOODLEIGH LANE Louis and Virginia Nourse Cass House

English style 1923 Flintridge home designed by Paul Williams and owned by insurance broker Louis Cass and his socialite wife Virginia Nourse Cass.

***With many thanks to the Building Biographer, Tim Gregory, and Mary Alice Wollam, Los Angeles Conservancy volunteer for their extensive research compiling this list.**

Village Smithy and Barbecue King: Jim Huntington (continued)



Courtesy of the Lanterman Archives.

Huntington Iron Works at 1428 Foothill Boulevard in La Cañada, circa 1920s.

In 1910, Huntington began learning his trade working in Pasadena at a carriage and blacksmith shop. Then, in 1914, he came to La Cañada and purchased what he described as a “junk shop” for all the money in his bank

account, \$90. There, he set up his first shop. At first, he had to rent an anvil and forge for \$15 a month, but the need for a blacksmith was soon apparent, since La Cañada was still extremely rural and full of ranches. In addition, the horse-drawn stage from La Crescenta was still running through La Cañada to Pasadena.

Huntington married Margaret Taylor from Boston and they had two sons, James Jr. and Robert. In 1917, Huntington put a sign in his shop window that read “Gone for the Duration,” going to San Pedro to work for L.A. Shipbuilding for the rest of World War I. Later, during World War II, the Huntington Iron Works, now with nine employees, was busy making

In between the wars, Huntington worked for U.S. Senator Frank Flint, creating decorative ironwork for many of the luxurious homes of the Flintridge development as well as the former Flintridge Country Club and the Flintridge Hotel (now Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy). Huntington also maintained the workers’ large equipment used to carve roads that Flint designed on his morning walks with his dog. His relationship with Senator



*Courtesy of the Joy Wilson Collection
at the Lanterman House.*

Jim Huntington in front of iron gates he made for the Bullock House (later LCUSD Headquarters), 1983.

Village Smithy and Barbecue King: Jim Huntington (continued)

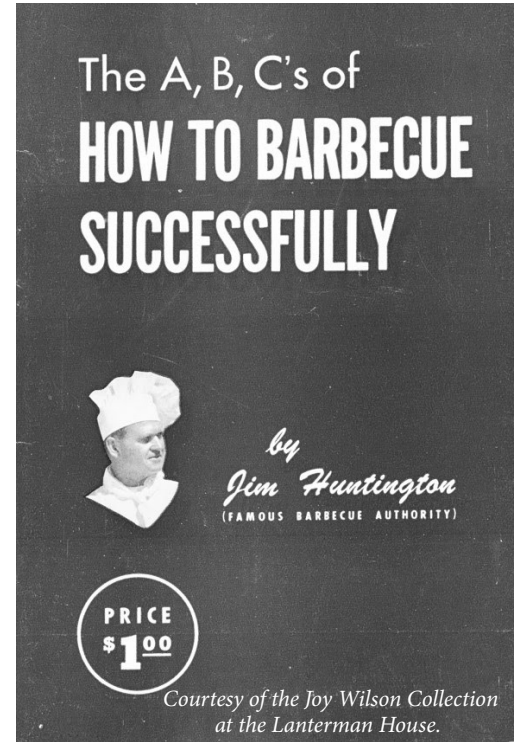
Flint was one of mutual respect and admiration, as Huntington notes "the senator would always call me Mr. Huntington, seeing I was Jim to everybody else [...] I was really thinking I was making the right thing." Edwin T. Earl also employed Huntington to work on some of the homes in his Alta Canyada development.

While building his career as a blacksmith, Jim Huntington was also very busy inventing his first portable barbecue that would bring him world-wide notoriety. First invented in 1930, his barbecue helped to change how we live outdoors with its signature firecone design. As one newspaper explains, the Huntington barbecue has "overcome the hazards and inefficiencies of out-of-door barbecuing—one that would make it possible for anyone to turn out wonderful barbecues in their own backyard... it was largely responsible for making barbecuing of America's popular out-of-door 'sports'." With his breakthrough barbecue came the art of cooking over an open flame, which Huntington perfected while growing up in Colorado.

Locally, Jim Huntington was famous for holding fundraiser barbecues for community groups, but farther afield he was known as a "food celebrity." One Sunday a month for 45 months during the 1950s, Huntington barbecued for the tubercular girls at Santa Teresita Hospital and Sanatorium in Duarte to cheer them up, all of it paid for by numerous La Cañada individuals and organizations. He called this project "the one important thing I've done." In the 1950s, he made special appearances to demonstrate his barbecue throughout the country. He posed for photos with famous actresses and sold over 5,000 barbecues and cookbooks annually worldwide.

Jim Huntington died in 1985 at the age of 91 after living in La Cañada for over 70 years.

~Julie Yamashita,
Lanternman House Archivist.



Cover of Jim Huntington's successful 1950 barbecue cookbook.



Advertisement for Huntington Barbecues, Valley Times, June 24, 1947.

Fall 2021

Happenings *at the* Lanterman House



In November, the Lanterman House hosted an outside event celebrating the native landscape of the Crescenta Cañada Valley. Tina Orduno Calderon, Culture Bearer of the Gabrielino-Tongva, offered a land blessing and acknowledgement (accompanied by her husband).



Lanterman House volunteers visited the Judson Studios exhibit at Forest Lawn Museum in September.



The Native Landscape event featured booths from several different local non-profits, including the Pasadena Audubon Society (shown here). Other booths included the Arroyo & Foothills Conservancy, the Arroyo Seco Foundation, the La Cañada Flintridge Trails Council, and the Theodore Payne Foundation. Hahamongna Native Plants Nursery and the Neshkinukat Native American Artist's Collective offered items for sale.

Photos courtesy of Candy Dougherty

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The Lanterman House held its annual Holiday Open House on December 19th, featuring carolers, a Gingerbread House contest, mulled cider, and a Holiday Boutique. The Cakery Bakery of La Cañada sponsored gift card prizes for all the Gingerbread House Contest winners.



Members of the La Cañada High School Chamber Singers serenaded the crowd with holiday carols.



Volunteers gave brief tours of the festively decorated Lanterman House during the annual Holiday Open House.



Volunteer Kathleen Orth and her granddaughter Hannah ran the craft table where visitors could use freshly-picked white sage to create a holiday ornament.



Volunteer Beth Neilson won a first-place award in the Gingerbread House contest with her recreation of the original La Cañada School House.



Members of Scout Troop 509 held a service day at the Lanterman House over the holiday break. Their project was to clean out the old Lanterman family shed and prepare it for more long-term storage upgrades. Thank you Scouts!

LANTERMAN HOUSE MEMBERSHIPS

Since the dedication of the Lanterman Historical Museum Foundation in 1993, memberships have helped the Foundation raise money to pay for the continued preservation and restoration of the Lanterman House & Archives. We have accomplished great things in the past twenty-nine years and we are so grateful to all of our members for their support.



Membership dollars help support on-going preservation work to the Lanterman House, including the repair and repainting of the Visitor and History Center in 2020.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 MEMBERSHIPS!

BENEFACTOR

Molly & Neal Brockmeyer
Tony Chahine
Ann Cowley
Christie & Sean Crahan
Barbara Dawson
Sally & Richard Emerson
Heather & Paul Haaga
Denise Hahn
Judi Healey

SUSTAINER

Gayle & Tom Caswell
Scarlette & Bruce Chapman
Candace Dougherty
Karen & John Fox
Diane & Sid Karsh
Lynn & Jack Laak
Dolores & Harvey Marsh
Mary Jo & William Mateer
Laura & Bill Olhasso
Kathleen Orth
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Bruce Taylor
Joy & Joe Wilson

SPRING 2022 CALENDAR

PLANNING A CALENDAR OF EVENTS DURING A WORLD-WIDE PANDEMIC IS A CHALLENGE! PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE LANTERMAN HOUSE WEBSITE AT WWW.LANTERMANHOUSE.ORG FOR THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION.

EVENTS CAN BE POSTPONED OR CANCELLED.

ALL EVENTS WILL FOLLOW COUNTY AND CITY COVID SAFETY GUIDELINES.

OUTSIDE-IN TOUR



*Under the pergola at Lanterman House.
Photo by Haley Flynn.*

If you are interested in taking a tour, please make a reservation on <https://lantermanhousetour.eventbrite.com>. Tours are offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 1pm and 2:30pm.

Enjoy an socially-distanced "Outside-In" tour of the Lanterman House. The Lanterman family planned and built their house with unique features that allowed them to take advantage of the fine Southern California climate. The house is completely surrounded by a patio, which can be accessed by an astonishing number of French doors - thirty-two in total! This special tour has been developed to introduce visitors to the Lanterman family and their unique house while reducing the risk of exposure to Covid-19. The hour-long docent-led tour weaves in and out of the house, allowing visitors plenty of fresh air.

Special Restrictions

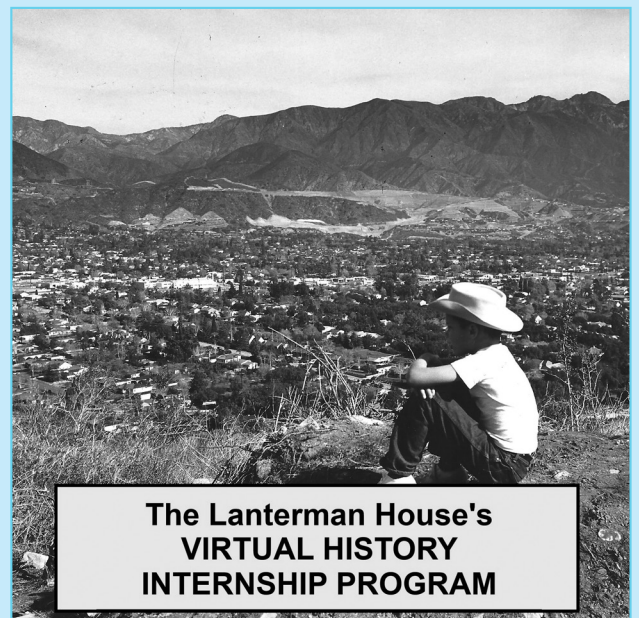
- Face coverings required at all times.
- A safe distance must be maintained from your guide.
- If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness on the day of your tour, please stay at home and call (818) 790-1421 to cancel your tour. At that time, you may choose to donate the cost of your tickets to the Lanterman House or request a refund.

VIRTUAL HISTORY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Summer 2022

The Lanterman House will be conducting its Virtual History Internship program again during the summer of 2022 for all local high school students. Students will attend training to learn to research and record oral history interviews with members of the community. The interviews will become a permanent part of the Lanterman House archives. The internship is worth approximately 20 hours of community service, completed over a six-week period.

Please follow us on social media or check our website for more details later this spring. We will begin accepting applications in early April.



**The Lanterman House's
VIRTUAL HISTORY
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**



4420 ENCINAS DRIVE • LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE, CA 91011
(818) 790-1421
lantermanhouse@gmail.com

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL HISTORY!

The Lanternman Historical Museum Foundation, a non-profit organization, collects, preserves and shares the resources of the Lanternman House and Archives in order to engage the public in the discovery, understanding and appreciation of the diverse history and development of the city of La Cañada Flintridge and the Crescenta Cañada Valley.

The Lanternman Historical Museum Foundation is eligible for Corporate Matching Gifts as a 501(c)(3) organization.

**Contact our Executive Director
at (818) 790-1421.**

LANTERMAN HOUSE

4420 Encinas Drive
La Cañada Flintridge, California 91011

**(818) 790-1421 • lantermanhouse@gmail.com
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