

Huntington Beach Grants Stay of Execution for One Of Its Famous Dignitaries

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By Melinda Keller

An 81-year-old Huntington Beach resident has received a stay of execution from City Hall.

With certain death approaching, Jack and Irene Briggs have made an 11th hour rescue for this local octogenarian.

And that won't be an easy project. This decrepit resident is a house.

The Blodget house, which rests at 116 Eighth St., was marked for death when it's owner, James Mosich of Palos Verdes, decided

to redevelop his property.

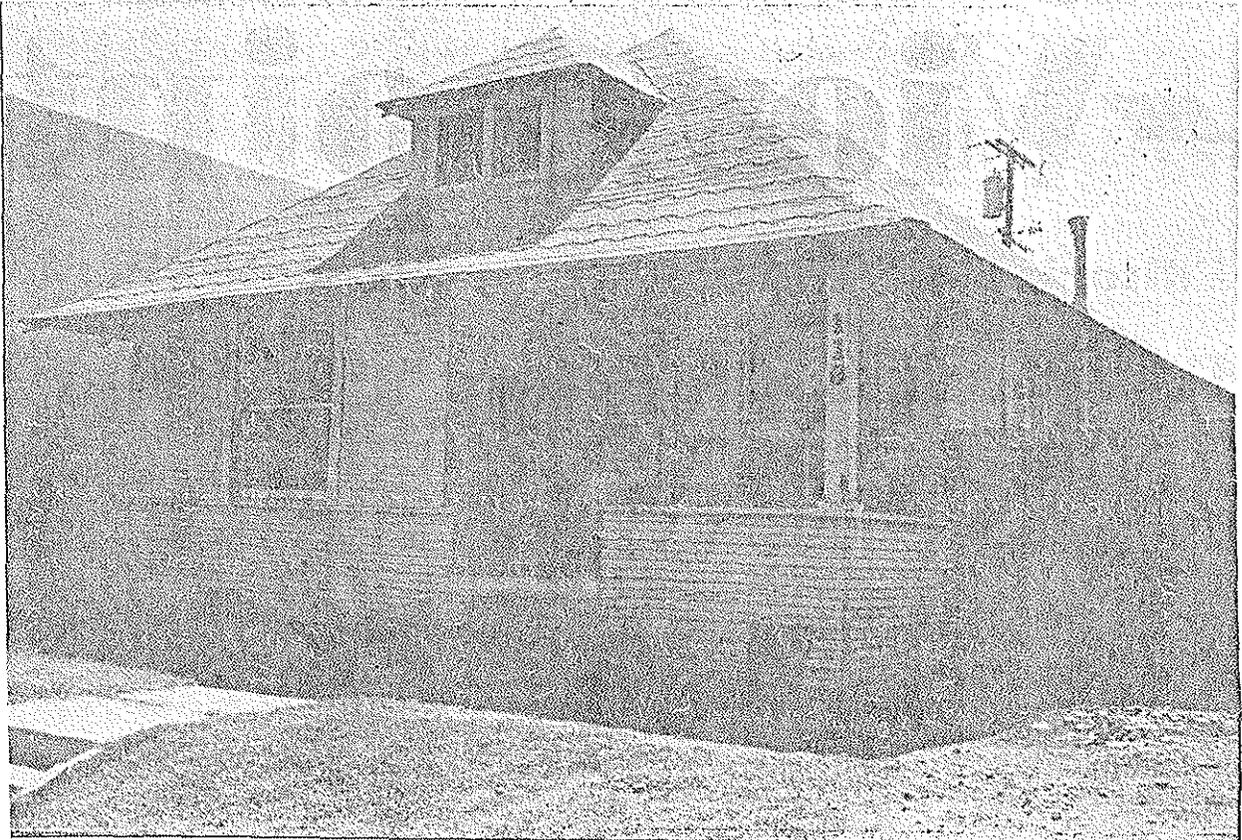
When Mosich went to apply for the necessary building permits, he was told that he had to wait 30 days before demolishing so Historic Resources Board members could find a site for the house.

Diana Blaisure, assistant city planner, said this is a new policy, instituted to preserve some of Huntington Beach's history.

"We adopted this policy about 30 days ago. This gives the people from the Historic Resources

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Independent Photo by Juaquine Matthews

The Blodget house receives a stay of execution and will be preserved at new HB site.

House...

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Board time to document and photograph historic houses in the event they can't find a site for them," Blaisure said.

Guy Guzzardo, board member, said that the Blodget house has quite a story.

Not only is it valuable because of architectural styling; a Huntington Beach pioneer built and lived in the home.

Spencer Langdon Blodget came to Huntington Beach from Bakersfield in 1904 to be cashier of the First National Bank of Huntington Beach.

He built the house in 1906 and retained ownership of the cottage, leasing it out for many years.

According to Guzzardo, the Blodget family was prominent in Huntington Beach for a number

of years. Blodget's wife, Florence, was the first president of the Woman's Club when it organized in 1908. Their oldest son, Rush Maxwell, was the first city attorney after the city's incorporation in 1909.

Another son, Lewis William, also served as city attorney and went on to become the district attorney of Orange County.

The Blodget house has been unaltered and is approximately 1,300 square feet. It is also the oldest existing building on 8th Street.

Irene Briggs, who also lives on Eighth Street, said that she and her husband are excited to take ownership.

"We both really like the older homes in the downtown area. We've lived there for four years and have watched so many of the house be destroyed," Briggs said.

Through a friend, she heard that Guzzardo was looking for

someone to take the house and renovate it.

"We live on a lot that is zoned for two houses, so we have plenty of room," she said.

Briggs added that she and her family plan to live in the house once it has been restored.

The Historic Resources Board attempts to relocate old homes, especially the one's in the downtown area.

Guzzardo said that there is a small fee to take the homes (under \$100) for deed and filing costs. But he added, that the tax deduction allowed for "adopting" a house is quite large.

"We'd like to know about any other local residents who are interested in saving these houses," Guzzardo said.

Anyone interested in the Historic Resources Board or in renovating a historic house can contact Diana Blaisure at 536-5251.