

SCHÄF PHOTO | STEPHEN SCHÄFER

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BIO

Stephen Schafer is an expert in the documentation of historic buildings, structures and sites, having completed over one hundred large format documentations to date. His company, Schaf Photo, specializes in photographic documentation of our inherited environment. His work ranges from the engineering of bridges and subway tunnels to the architecture of skyscrapers and Spanish colonial adobes. Schafer has documented historic homes, cultural landscapes, and built technology projects in twenty states and on the island of Guam. These archival documentations are transmitted to the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) collections at the Library of Congress.

Schafer's architectural photographs have been featured internationally in books and publications like the Wall Street Journal, Architect Magazine, the Los Angeles Times, Traditional Building Magazine, NPR, and the National Trust's Preservation Magazine. He documented 300 historic locations in Los Angeles for the bestselling coffee table book: Preserving Los Angeles by Ken Bernstein. His documentary photographs have been used to nominate sites to the National Register of Historic Places and as CEQA and NEPA mitigation measures. He specializes in 4x5" and 5x7" archival, large format black and white photography adhering to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Architectural and Engineering Documentation.

Schafer's client list includes institutions, corporations and cities as diverse as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Riverside, Alameda, Santa Monica, San Jose, Culver City, Monterey Park, Berkeley and the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, the San Diego Unified, and LA Unified School Districts, Cornell University, UC San Francisco, UC Santa Cruz, Pepperdine University, UCLA, the San Francisco Presidio Trust, the Getty Conservation Institute, the LA Conservancy, Caltrans, Caltrain, LA Metro Rail, SCE, PG&E, SDG&E, EBMUD, El Paso Gas Co., NASA, GSA, USGS, the National Park Service, the US Bureau of Reclamation, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and California State Parks among others he is not allowed to disclose.

Schafer attended the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, after which he opened his Ventura photo studio. In 1997, Schafer accepted the offer to teach at the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea program aboard an ocean liner circumnavigating the globe. He has also taught photography at the USC School of Architecture, California State University Northridge, and at the Los Angeles Center of Photography. He has presented lectures on photography and historic preservation to the American Planning Association and at the National Archives in Washington, D. C. He regularly lectures on HABS/HAER/HALS best practices at USC and for California Preservation Foundation educational workshops. Mr. Schafer serves on the board of the San Buenaventura Conservancy and he a past appointee to the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board. He lives in downtown Ventura with his wife Sherry, in an 1881 folk Victorian farmhouse that they rehabilitated in 2001.

