



Overview of the History of the Community of Brighton

**Important Events, Families, Buildings and Organizations
Instrumental to the Founding, Settlement and Growth of
the Present Day Town of Brighton, Utah**

120 INCHES, MARCH 1949

Events Important to Brighton

1847

- 1847-1869: **Mormon pioneers arrive** to the Salt Lake Valley and immediately begin to explore the canyons surrounding the valley. For the next 22 years, Mormon and Non-Mormon (referred to by the Mormon population as “gentiles”) immigration continues.
- 1852: The Church leaders grant exclusive rights to the **harvesting of lumber** in Big Cottonwood Canyon to Joseph Young, Brigham Young’s older brother.
- 1854-1869: **Sawmills** throughout Big Cottonwood Canyon begin construction and operations providing timber and lumber for the development of the new town of Salt Lake City and Church buildings.
- 1856: Brigham Young organizes a **gala picnic event** to be held on the shores of Silver Lake at Brighton to celebrate the Mormon Pioneers’ arrival in the Great Salt Lake Valley. The event is repeated several times over the next decade.

1869

- 1869: The **Transcontinental Railroad** is completed. The “Driving of the Golden Spike Ceremony” at Promontory Point, Utah signals the beginning of the most significant economic, cultural and growth period for Utah and the surrounding states and territories that continues for more than a half century. Canyon sawmills begin closing.

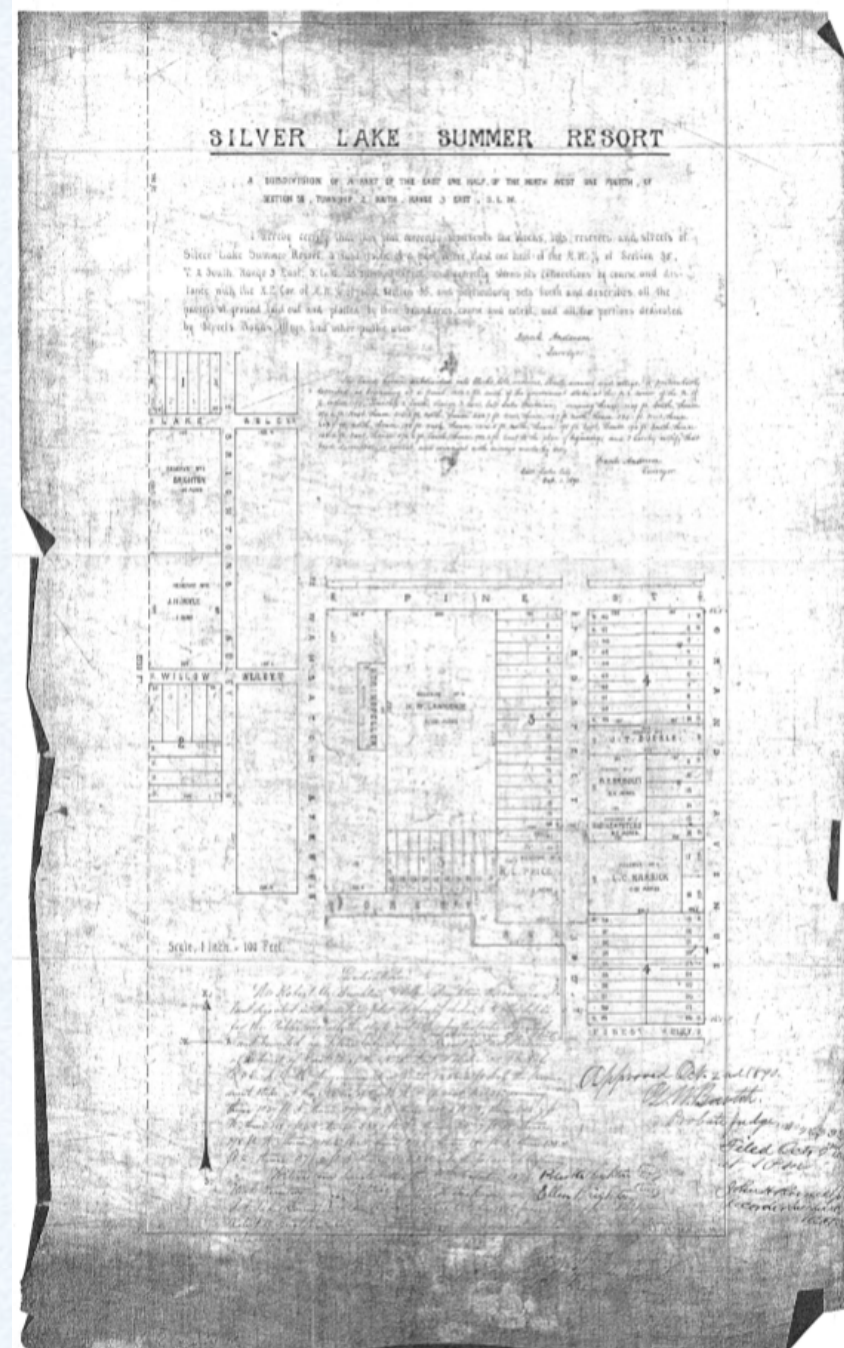
Events Important to Brighton (Cont'd)

1869

- 1869-1950s: Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad signals the beginning of the “**Mining Boom**” in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah.
- Early 1870s: The **Brighton Family** puts down roots in Brighton, building a cabin in 1870 and in 1874 a **small hotel**.
- 1876 & 1890: The Brighton Family, father, William S. and his oldest son, Robert A., secure two 80-acre **homestead grants** in the Brighton area and subdivide parts of the acreage into building lots.
- 1894 & 1895: The second and larger **Brighton Hotel** opens in 1894. Catherine Bow Brighton dies in 1894 and William Stuart Brighton dies in 1895. James H. Moyle is the executor of the Brighton’s estate.
- 1896: Utah becomes a **state**.

1896

**Copy of Original Silver
Lake Summer Resort
Subdivision Plat Circa
1890**



**The first
Brighton Hotel
built in 1874**



**The second
Brighton Hotel
completed in
1896**



Events Important to Brighton (Cont'd)

1900s

- Early 1900s: The U.S. Federal Government designates some of the forest land around the Brighton area as “**Forest Reserve**”.
- 1906: The U. S. Department of Agriculture designates most of the forest land, not already under some type of private ownership, in Big Cottonwood Canyon, including the Forest Reserve, in the Brighton area as the “**Wasatch National Forest**”.
- 1906: George Grantor purchases property from Robert A. Brighton and builds a **Livery and Stables**. The Stables are later sold to Tom Davis. Ern and Molly Green purchase the Stables in 1918 and they operate them for the next 35 years.

1910

- 1910: The **Silver Lake Water Works Company** is organized (this name was changed the next year to Silver Lake Company). The lease for the water rights to the Great Western Mine tunnel is negotiated and signed and the construction of the community water mains is approved. Construction on the main water lines begins.

Events Important to Brighton (Cont'd)

1914

- 1914: The Judge C. W. Morse Decree allocates all the unallocated **water rights** of Big Cottonwood Creek to Salt Lake City Corp.
- Early 1930s-1962: The **canyon road** begins a rebuilding phase that will eventually take years to complete. This improved road enables better road conditions for motor vehicles and significantly reducing travel time between the Salt Lake Valley and Brighton. The present-day road is finally completed in 1962.
- 1936-40: The recreational ski industry in Brighton begins this year with a rope tow installed by the Wasatch Mountain Club. In 1938, the **Brighton Ski Resort** begins operations with the installation of a “T” Bar Lift on Mt. Majestic.
- Mid 1940s: The **Brighton Loop Road** in its present layout is constructed.
- 1946: Silver Lake Company purchases the water rights associated with the **Great Western Mine** tunnel and portal from J. Will Knight, the Knight family representative and the owners of the mine and portal.

1946

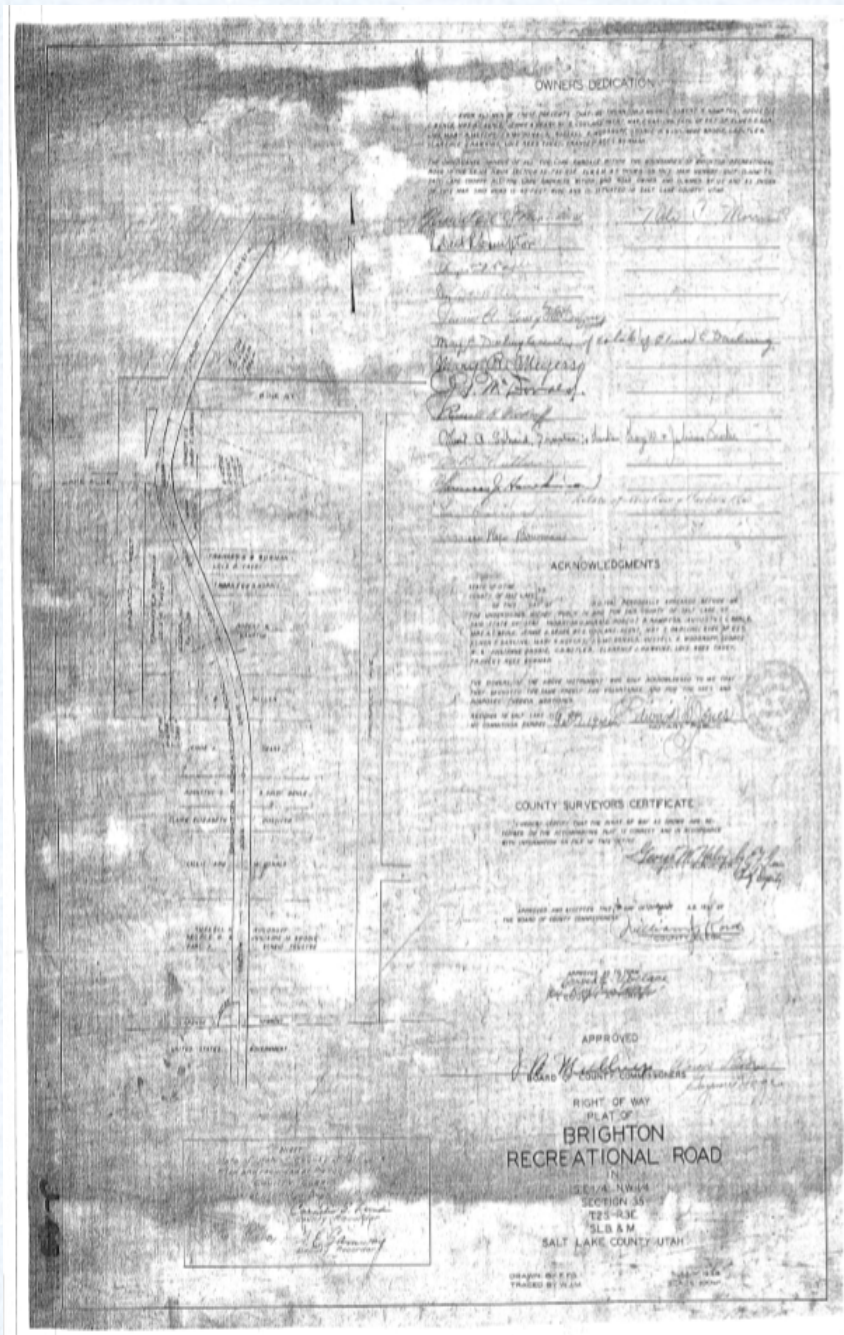
Events Important to Brighton (Cont'd)

1953

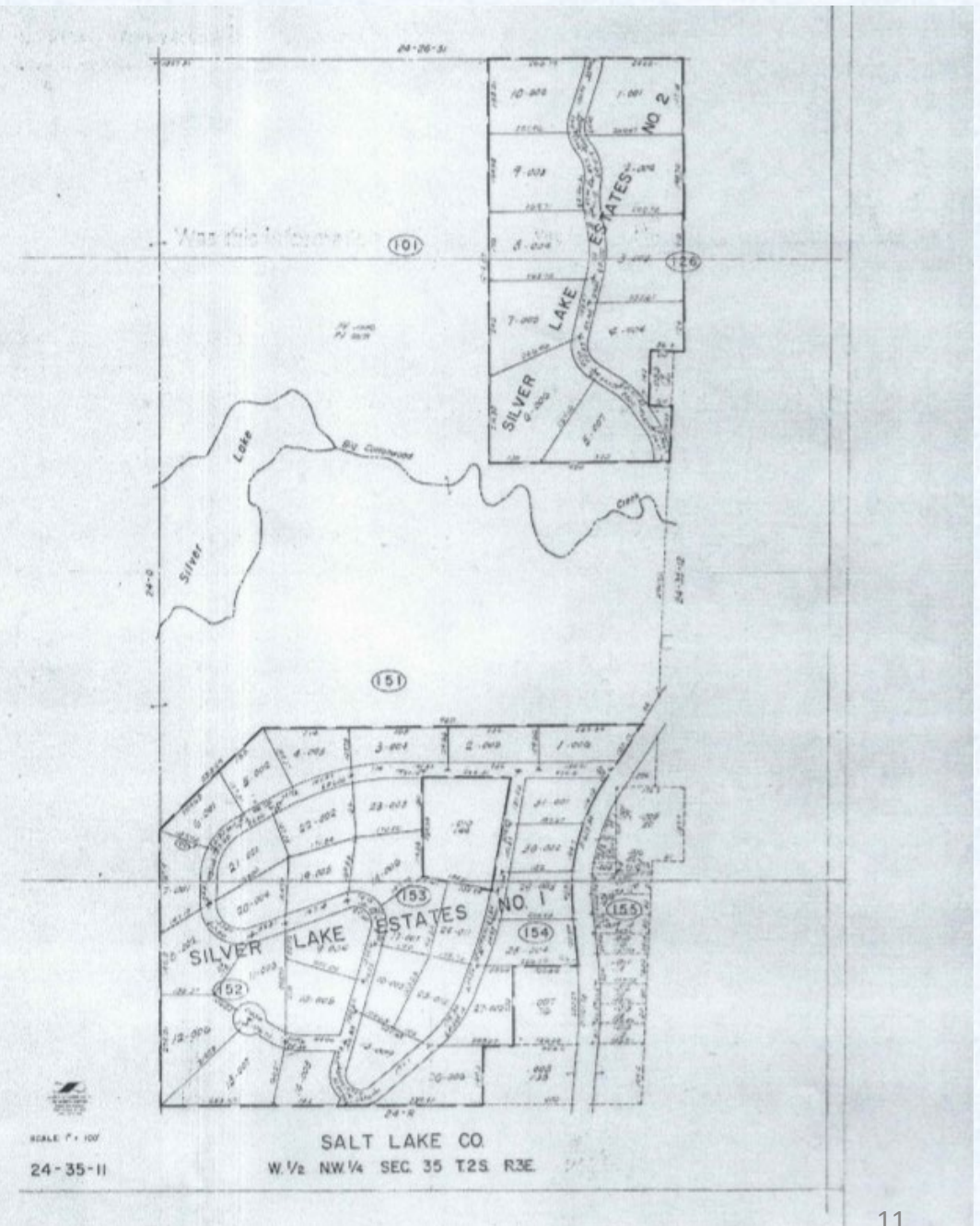
- 1953: Salt Lake City Public Utilities **bans livestock and domestic animals** from the Big Cottonwood Canyon. The Green's Stable closes.
- Early 1970s: **Silver Lake Estates No. 1 and 2 is subdivided** by the Trustee of the James H. Moyle Family Trust.
- Early 1980s-Mid 1990s: An **Improvement District** is organized and the main sewer system for the entire canyon is completed over the next decade.
- 2018-2020: The formation of the **Town of Brighton** is conceived, organized, brought before and approved by the voters within the proposed town and officially becomes the Town of Brighton on January 1, 2020.

2020

**Approved Design with
Property Owners'
Signatures for the
East Half of the new
Brighton Loop Road,
circa 1944**



Subdivision Plat Map of Silver Lake Estates #1 and #2



Families Instrumental to the Settlement and Development of the Brighton Community

- William S. Brighton Family
- James Henry Moyle Family
- J. G. McDonald Family
- T. D. Lewis Family
- H. W. Lawrence Family
- William S. Godbe Family
- Zane Doyle Family
- H. G. Whitney Family
- Elmer E. Darling Family
- Brown & Morris Families
- A. Frank Barnes Family
- James A. Hogle Family
- Hogle Investment Co.
- Heber J. Grant Family
- J. A. Crookston Family (W.L.?)
- Wendell M. Smoot Family
- Walker Bros. Families

Families Instrumental to the Settlement and Development of the Brighton Community

- Clarence G. Bamberger Family
- W. J. Strout Family (Gates Cottages)
- Will Reese Family
- J. Rogers Family
- R. B. Evans Family
- Ern and Molly Green
- John A. Widtsoe Family
- Don O. Despain Family
- A. H. Vogel Family
- T. S. Jorgensen Family

The Merchants Who have Operated Stores in Brighton Community Thru the Years

- William S Brighton (1875?)
- William H. Brighton (1900 - ?)
- Heber S. Sheets (1905-1907)
- Leland Sheets (1907-1945)
- Tom Davis (1910-?)
- Ben Rich (1917-?)
- Richard (Pokey) Peterson (?)
- Juel Bosen (1945-1960)
- Everest Ray Watrous (1960-1974)
- Brighton Village Inc. (1974-1976)
- Don and Jolene Despain (1976-1993)
- The Brighton Resort (1995-Present)

Noteworthy Structures and Organizations Prominent Within the Brighton Community Thru the Years

Noteworthy Structures

- YWMIA Girls Home
- Alpine Rose Lodge
- Billy Turpin's Cabin
- Balsam Hotel & Balsam Inn
- The Stables
- Mt. Majestic Manor
- Wasatch Mountain Club
- Molly Green's Cabin
- The Brighton Store

**Brighton's YWMIA
Girls Home,
circa 1920s**



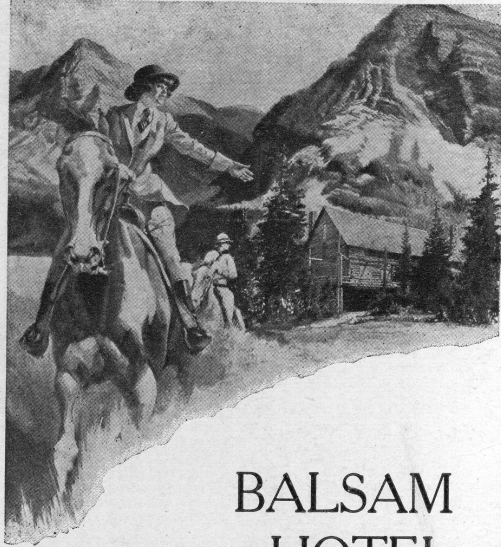
**Alpine Rose
Lodge,
circa late 1940s**



Billy Turpin's Cabin today



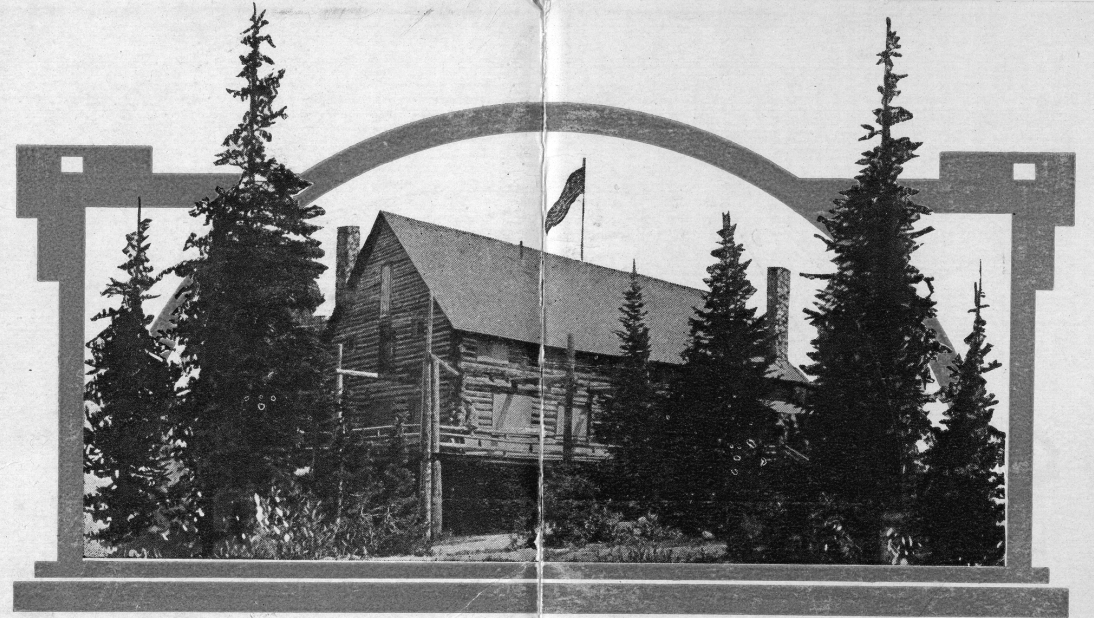
**A brochure
from the
Balsam Hotel,
circa 1914**



**BALSAM
HOTEL**

Brighton, Utah
Big Cottonwood Canyon

“Where one may spend
a day or a month and
enjoy every moment.”



Balsam Hotel

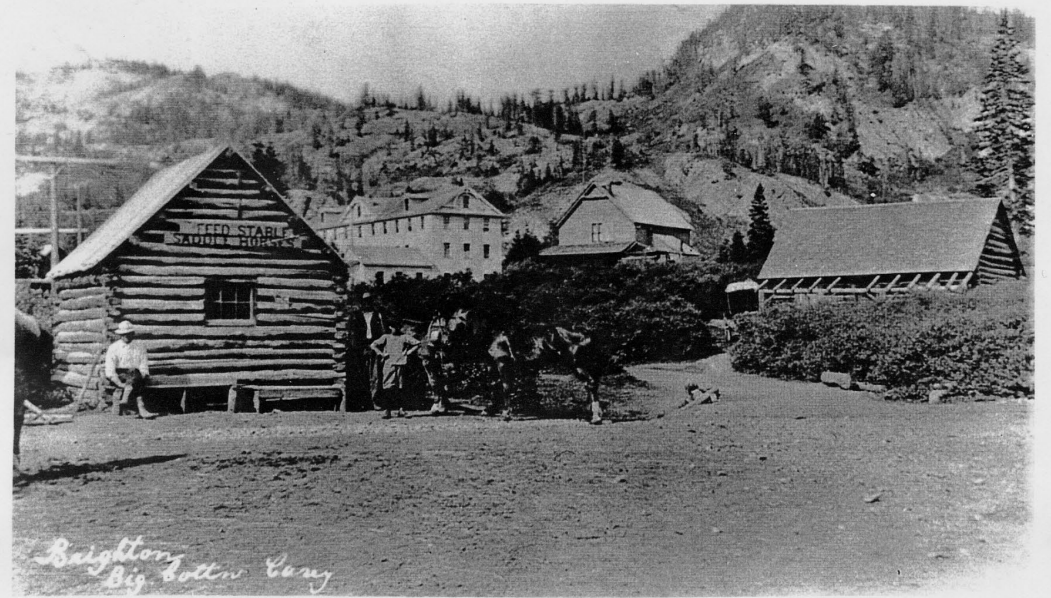
**A little
journey**

5.21
1937

The Stables and the Balsam Inn, circa 1920



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*Brighton
Big Cotton Canyon*



Balsam Inn (1910-1937)

**Mt. Majestic
Manor,
circa late 1950s**



**Wasatch Mountain
Club, circa 1930s**



**Molly Green's
Cabin at the
entrance to
Brighton,
circa late 1940s**



The Brighton Store,
circa 1940s



Noteworthy Structures and Organizations Prominent Within the Brighton Community Thru the Years, (Cont'd)

Community Organizations

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- The Episcopal Diocese of Utah - Girls Friendly Society and Camp Tuttle
- Wasatch Mountain Club
- Big Cottonwood Canyon Assn.
- Brighton Community Association, Inc.

In closing, on behalf of our History Committee,
we ask a simple question:

***Where do we go from here and how can we best
preserve Brighton's valuable heritage and history?***

Please let us know your thoughts!