



PAST News

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Spring 2023

PAST Celebrates Preservation Month

Centennial Plaques & Preservation Awards

Birge Clark – The Early Years

Sunday, May 7 — 2 to 4 p.m.
Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium
1313 Newell Road



Daniel Garber, FAIA

Palo Alto Stanford Heritage (PAST), in cooperation with the Palo Alto Historical Association (PAHA), will host its 27th presentation of Centennial Plaques to owners of 1922 buildings. We will also present Historic Preservation Awards to recognize preservation projects that renovate, rehabilitate, or restore local historic buildings. Our featured speaker is Architect **Daniel Garber, FAIA**, partner at Fergus Garber Architects. Dan's topic is ***Birge Clark – The Early Years, His Time and Influences; 1922 to 1933***. PAST and PAHA are celebrating Birge Clark on the 100th anniversary of the founding of his architectural practice in 1922.

Birge Clark's long career was almost solely conducted in Palo Alto. It was varied enough to include single and multiple family residences, commercial structures, and prominent institutional buildings. Well

known works include the Lou Henry Hoover House on the Stanford campus, the Medico-Dental Building across from City Hall, and the President Hotel. Other important designs are the Palo Alto Fire and Police Station (Avenidas), Kathleen Norris House, Roth Building (Palo Alto Medical Clinic), US Post Office on Hamilton Avenue, and the Lucie Stern Community Center.

This program is part of PAST Heritage's mission to promote the importance of preserving the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto and Stanford areas. PAST Heritage holds a Centennial Plaque and Historic Preservation Awards program each year during the month of May as part of National Preservation Month.

Please join PAST and PAHA to celebrate the preservation of Palo Alto's unique historic character.



1922 Centennial Buildings

Homes built in 1922 have achieved centennial status and are eligible to acquire a centennial plaque to honor them. The following structures have been identified as completed in 1922 that continue to reflect the era.

Photos taken by Nicole Dymmel, and Brian and Carolyn George.



717 Addision Avenue



1425 Alma Street



260 Byron Street



1326 Byron Street



370 Channing Avenue



468 Channing Avenue



105 Churchill Avenue



340 Churchill Avenue



215 Coleridge Avenue



537 Coleridge Avenue



240 Cowper Street



971 Cowper Street



1855 Cowper Street



1505 Emerson Street



1729 Emerson Street



1818 Emerson Street



205 Everett Avenue



764 Forest Avenue



833 Forest Avenue



859 Forest Avenue



918 Forest Avenue



605 Guinda Street



811 Guinda Street



1135 Guinda Street



820 Hamilton Avenue



840 Hamilton Avenue



900 Hamilton Avenue



972 Hamilton Avenue



580 Hawthorne Avenue



840 Homer Avenue



560 Kingsley Avenue



328 Kipling Street



436 Lincoln Avenue



539 Lincoln Avenue



809 Lincoln Avenue



849 Lincoln Avenue



961 Lincoln Avenue



218 Lowell Avenue



662 Melville Avenue



815 Melville Avenue



242 Middlefield Road



250 Middlefield Road



380 Palo Alto Avenue



788 Palo Alto Avenue



1312 Parkinson Avenue



949 Scott Street



630 Seneca Street



350 Tennyson Avenue



618 Tennyson Avenue



383 University Avenue



789 University Avenue



1085 University Avenue



193 Waverley Street



210 Waverley Street



228 Waverley Street



426 Waverley Street



209 Webster Street



1342 Webster Street



1465 Webster Street



1525 Webster Street

Discovering Centennial Buildings

Each year as PAST plans for its May Preservation program the challenge is to find eligible 100-year-old buildings. We start with reviewing all the building permits for the selected year. A source for the permits is the permit lists published by the Palo Alto Times. Using this information, we check the yearly Palo Alto City Directories stored in the archives at Cubberley K7. The directories show addresses and residents of Palo Alto homes and businesses. If the address is not in the directory for the permit year it implies that the building was not completed during that year. We then check directories for later years to discover when the building was inhabited. After creating an address list of potential centennial buildings, we visit each location to determine if the building appears to be eligible for centennial recognition. This year we started with over 80 potential building and ended with 60. Photos and addresses for 1922 buildings are included in this PAST Heritage newsletter. They will be recognized during our May 7th program. Centennial plaques are available.

North Palo Alto PAST Walking Tour

By Bo Crane

North Palo Alto, between Alma and Middlefield, one of Palo Alto's least heralded neighborhoods, provided affordable housing in the early 20th century for many employed nearby on University Avenue.

The tour begins at the intersection of Byron Street and Palo Alto Avenue. (Parking is limited by dead ends on both streets.)

Among the residences is a large greenhouse, built in 1923, by Frank Mills of Mills the Florist,

Palo Alto Avenue follows San Francisquito Creek's curves except where the streets cut off extended bends. The entire shelf along the creek was granted to the City in 1907 and named for its grantor as Timothy Hopkins Creekside Park.

Palo Alto Avenue winds to a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the creek, which replaced a vehicle bridge used by the Hopkins property. Author John Steinbeck reportedly lived in a cottage on the property while he was at Stanford in 1925. Steinbeck sized his cottage as "seven square feet"!

The tour returns along Ruthven and Hawthorne Avenues to end on Byron Street.

Birge Clark Tour Schedule

Sat., April 29 — North Palo Alto

Meet at 622 Palo Alto Avenue (enter from Webster).

New tour! Parking is available at the end of Byron Street, Palo Alto Avenue, or Webster Street, all dead ends.



Sat., May 6 — Mayfield-Salvatierra, Stanford

Meet at 589 Capistrano Way, Stanford (Attneave House)

New tour of the Mayfield–Salvatierra neighborhood of Stanford University.



Sat., May 13 — Downtown Birge Clark

Meet at City Hall Plaza, 250 Hamilton Avenue

The Birge Clark tour features his commercial buildings, including the President Hotel, Hamilton Post Office, Medico–Dental building, and the Ramona Street Historical District.



Sat., May 20 — Mayfield

Meet at Sarah Wallis Park, Ash Street and Grant Avenue

This tour also includes Evergreen Park on the north side of California Avenue.



Sat., May 27 — Beyond Professorville

Meet at 1005 Bryant (corner Bryant and Addison)

Casaquerida, La Casa Abierta, Palo Club, Allen House, El Patio



Rain or shine! – All tours start at 10 a.m.

Tours are free, although donations are always welcome! Join us for a fun and friendly walk through town. — Please check the Palo Alto Stanford Heritage website for any updates. Tours are generally 1½–2 hours long and cover up to 1 1/2 miles.

We look forward to seeing you!

Spring PAST Calendar

- April 29** North Palo Alto Tour
- May 6** Mayfield–Salvatierra Tour
- May 7** Joint meeting with PAST and the Palo Alto Historical Association: *Centennial Plaques and Preservation Awards*, Palo Alto Art Center 1313 Newell Road, 2 p.m.
- May 13** Downtown Birge Clark Tour
- May 20** Mayfield Tour
- May 27** Beyond Professorville Tour

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PAST Heritage is a nonprofit organization advocating the preservation of the historic architecture, neighborhoods, and character of the greater Palo Alto Stanford area through informed citizen involvement and education.