



# PAST News

Vol. 29, No 2

P.O. Box 308 • Palo Alto, California 94302

Spring 2017

## Calendar of Historical Happenings Landscape Architecture Month

**April 29, May 13, May 20, May 21, May 27 – Walking Tours**—see front page for details.

**Museum of American Heritage:** 351 Homer Ave., 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Free.

**PAST Celebration,** Lucie Stern Community Center Ball Room, 1305 Middlefield.

**Historic Resources Board** — 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. – 8:30 a.m., City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

**Wolfe & Higgins Tour** eight Spanish Revival structures — Preservation Action Council of San Jose, **August 26**. Tickets now on sale. See [www.wolfeandhigginstour.com](http://www.wolfeandhigginstour.com) for details.

### PAST Heritage Board of Directors

President: Brian George

Secretary: Hayley Stevens

Projects: Steve Emslie  
Lee Lippert

Web/Newsletter: Carolyn George

Historian: Steve Staiger

HRB Rep: David Bower

[www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org)

## PAST Celebrates 30 Years!

### Preservation Awards! — Centennial Plaques!

— Refreshments following presentations

Sunday, May 7 — 2 to 4 p.m.

Lucie Stern Community Center Ball Room

1305 Middlefield Road



*Presented in association with the Palo Alto Historical Association.*

## Historic Walking Tours



April 29

Stroll through Crescent Park at the first spring free walking tour April 29. This series of tours celebrates Preservation Month, giving residents and visitors a chance to delve deeper into Palo Alto's history and character. Walking tours are among PAST's most popular events led by some of the city's most knowledgeable preservationists. Join us for a fun and friendly walk through town—we look forward to seeing you on our tours!  
*Hayley Stevens, Tour Coordinator*



May 13

Sat. **Crescent Park** Led by Margaret Feuer  
April 29 Meet at Squire House, 900 University (corner of University and Seneca)



May 20

Sat. **Homer Avenue** Led by Steve Emslie  
May 13 Meet at The Woman's Club, 475 Homer Avenue



May 27

Sat. **Professorville** Led by Gail Woolley  
May 20 Meet at 1005 Bryant (corner of Bryant and Addison)

Sunday **Professorville** Led by Kris Zavoli  
May 21 Meet at 1005 Bryant (corner of Bryant and Addison)

Sat. **College Terrace** Led by Carolyn George  
May 27 Meet at 1181 College (corner of College and Harvard)

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



### PAST News

Palo Alto Stanford Heritage  
P.O. Box 308  
Palo Alto, CA 94302

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.

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[www.pastheritage.org](http://www.pastheritage.org)

## A Timeline of Preservation by Margaret Feuer (Abbreviated version)



**Forward:** When President Lyndon B. Johnson signed The National Preservation Act of 1966, he did more than establish the **National Register of Historic Places**. He inspired preservationists across the nation to preserve the historical and cultural foundations of their communities. Palo Alto was no exception.

**1968** — The **American Association of University Women (AAUW)** began compiling a list of historic structures to celebrate Palo Alto's 75th anniversary in 1969.



**1971** — Architect **Birge Clark** helped **Gail Woolley, Paula Pugh and Kennie Winters** write . . . ***Gone Tomorrow?***

**1972** — National Register listed **Squire House**, 900 University Avenue, saved by citizens group. Its protections include **façade easement** and the **Mills Act**.

**1973** — **Downing House**, 706 Cowper Street, added to the National Register.



**1975 – 1980:** **Dorothy Regnery** led the **Citizens Committee to Preserve MacArthur Park**, a Julia Morgan building listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1976.

**1979** — Consultants hired to inventory historic structures; **Historic Buildings Inventory** created.

**1980** — City adopted Historic Preservation Ordinance and established the Historic Resources Board (HRB). **Professorville Historic District** listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



**1986** — **James Stone** received the **Tall Tree Award** for his preservation efforts. **Ramona Street Architectural District** added to the National Register.

**1987** — The local volunteers helping plan the 1988 California Preservation Conference became identified as Palo Alto Stanford Heritage (PAST).

**1988** — The **California Preservation Conference**, venues at Palo Alto and Stanford. The first **PAST Holiday House Tour** of four **Professorville** homes.

**1989** — **mid-1990s** - PAST conducted **weekly tours** of Professorville and Downtown Palo Alto.



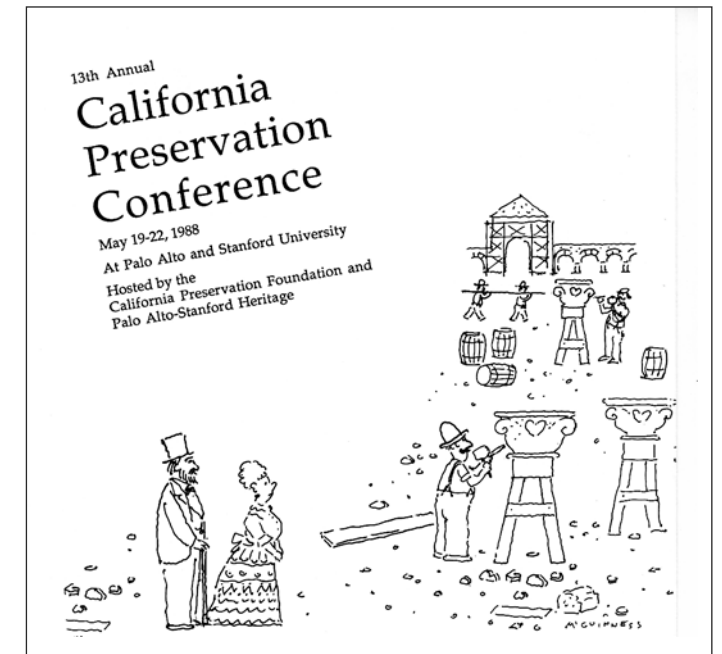
**1994** — To celebrate the City's Centennial, the City gave **plaques** to 100-year old houses, a tradition which PAST continues. Ward Winslow edited the commemorative book, ***Centennial History***. Margaret R. Feuer edited ***Famous Women of Palo Alto: A Walking Tour***.

## Celebrating PAST Heritage's 30th Anniversary

**P**alo Alto Stanford Heritage was founded in 1987 to co-sponsor the 1988 California Preservation Foundation Annual Conference in Palo Alto. According to an early newsletter "The success of the conference encouraged PAST's organizers to form a strong architectural preservationist organization. Its activities, including docent-led walking tours, are designed to encourage citizens to appreciate and preserve the best of the area's historic structures and neighborhoods." Thirty years later we are still guided by this mission.

PAST's 30th celebration will be part of our annual centennial plaque presentations and preservation awards event held each May since 1996. We will share stories of our 30 successful years as a participant with the many other individuals and organizations that contributed to the local preservation movement.

*Brian George*



## What Happened in 1987 . . . by Steve Staiger

**R**eagan, Gorbachev and Thatcher are the world leaders, and the Governor of California was George Deukmajian. The average price of a new house in the United States was \$92,000 and an automobile cost \$10,300. Gasoline was 89 cents per gallon and a first class postage stamp was 24 cents.

Fox Broadcasting made its primetime debut, including the first viewing of the Simpsons. Popular films released in theaters included "Good Morning Vietnam", "Lethal Weapon", and "Dirty Dancing".

Aretha Franklin was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Future Hall of Famers, the Grateful Dead performed at Frost Amphitheater in May.

Palo Alto recognized Linkoping Sweden as one of its Sister Cities.

Televangelist Jim Bakker's scandal was a major news story throughout the year. Prozac was introduced to the United States market.

The first Black and White Ball was held in Palo Alto.

Fred Astaire, Andy Warhol and Liberace were among those who died in 1987.

PAST founded.

## 1917 — The Year That Was . . . by Steve Staiger

Woodrow Wilson was the President of the United States and Hiram Johnson was the Governor of California until March 15, when William Stephens took office. The year began with the University of Oregon defeating the University of Pennsylvania 14–0 in the 3rd Rose Bowl.

The U.S. Army ended its search for Poncho Villa along the U.S.–Mexican border in late January. WWI was a stalemate on the battlefields of the Western Front. The United States enters the war in April, and the first civilians are drafted in June. Locally, construction begins on Camp Fremont, the U.S. Army training camp on the Peninsula. One of the buildings, the Hostess House, is designed by Julia Morgan, and after the war is moved to Palo Alto to become the first Community Center.

In July, at the Battle of Aqaba, the Arabian troops led by T.E. Lawrence defeat troops of the Ottoman Empire. Another empire bites the dust as Nicolas II abdicates his throne in Russia.

The S S Palo Alto, a concrete ship that today lies off the coast of Santa Cruz is authorized. With a shortage of steel, the new technology is an experiment. The ship will be launched in 1918, but not ready for service in the war.

The Danish West Indies is sold to the United States for \$25 million, and is renamed the US Virgin Islands.

The world welcomes the birth of future president John F. Kennedy, Dizzy Gillespie, Lena Horne, Phyllis Diller and Desi Arnaz. The race horse Man O War is born, and would live for 30 years. Scott Joplin and Buffalo Bill Cody are among those who would die in 1917.

The Original Dixieland Jazz Band releases the first commercial jazz recording.

The Bourn family moves into the newly constructed Filoli mansion in Woodside.

Construction begins on the new Paly High School, out on the edge of town, the students would march from the old high school building to occupy the new building on Christmas Eve, 1918.

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## Help the Woman's Club Building Restoration

Over 120 years ago, while their husbands were establishing Stanford University, a group of faculty wives and their friends created the Woman's Club. When Charles Hodges was designing the old chemistry building, they scraped together the funds for him to design their building. Since 1916, the clubhouse has hosted events chronicling the life of Palo Alto while being held together through volunteer efforts and sealing wax.

But now it's time—maintenance and restoration are about to begin. Our careful savings can cover phase one, and we are raising the over \$1.5 million necessary for phase 2. Please help us restore the building which reflects the dedication of the women who created Palo Alto.

Carol Lippert, board president 2015-2017  
Woman's Club of Palo Alto



1994 — Dennis Backlund led fight to save the Varsity.

1997 — Updated survey by Dames and Moore.

1998 — PAST's first web page.

1999 — The City chose not to add any of the Dames and Moore structures to the Historic Inventory.

2000 — Proposed preservation ordinance turned down because designation seen as detrimental to housing values.

2004 — Joint Holiday House Tour on Stanford campus with Stanford Historical Society.

2006–2007 — PAST agreed to hold a covenant for the City of Palo Alto to ensure that rehabilitation of the Children's Library followed National Register guidelines.

2008 — Website expanded to be a major resource.

2010 — National Register status for the Roth Building at 300 Homer Avenue.

2011 — Juana Briones House demolished. PAST contributed \$4,000 towards removal and preservation of a section of adobe wall. Walking tours resumed semi-annually.

2012 — The Daily News began publishing weekly historic house articles written by Margaret Feuer. PAST began promoting the concept of conservation easements. PAST held its final Holiday House Tour, the 25th.

2015 — The Woman's Club added to National Register.

2016–2017 — PAST presents educational programs PAttern & STyle and Nuts & Bolts. PAST renovates the Hale Street Pump House.



### Afterword:

The achievements of PAST would not have been possible without the support of City Staff, Council members, and HRB members.

### Summation:

The historical, cultural and architectural foundations of Palo Alto should be preserved as a living part of our community life in order to give a sense of continuity and orientation to residents. In a wealthy society where dreams quickly become reality, it's easy to dismiss the past as irrelevant. It can be proudly said of PAST that, in its thirty years of existence, it has always honored the past.



# Nuts & Bolts

## Historic Composition — Elements — Details

PAST continued its education mission by presenting an illustrated discussion of historic preservation providing insight into the diverse architecture of Palo Alto, and how to read a building's architectural composition.

Our speakers were **Daniel Garber, FAIA**, on *architectural styles—a brief history of architecture* and **Michael Garavaglia, AIA**, preservation architect, on *how to read a building—architectural composition*.

February 25, 2017

