



PAST News

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Fall 2019

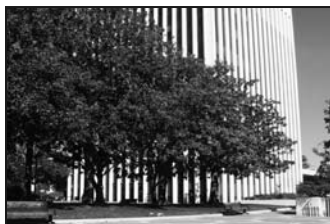
Walking Tours

Tours are free, although donations are always welcome! Join us for a fun and friendly walk through town — We look forward to seeing you.



Sat. *College Terrace*
Oct. 5 *Led by Carolyn George*

Meet at 1181 College (corner of College and Harvard)



Sat. *Downtown*
Oct. 12 *Led by Margaret Feuer*

Meet at City Hall Plaza, 250 Hamilton Avenue



Sat. *Downtown Entrepreneurs – Read about this on page 3*
Oct. 19 *Led by Bo Crane*

Meet on plaza at Ramona side of 250 University



Sunday *Professorville*
Oct. 27 *Led by Kris Zavoli and Anne Gregor*

Meet at 1005 Bryant (corner Bryant and Addison)



Sat. *Homer Avenue*
Nov. 2 *Led by Steve Emslie*

Meet at The Woman's Club, 475 Homer Avenue

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

President's Message

For over three decades it has been PAST Heritage's mission to identify and educate the public on notable historic buildings and structures through walking tours, seminars, our annual historic rehabilitation preservation awards program, and centennial plaques. As we celebrate Palo Alto's Quasiquicentennial we look around and take inventory of what buildings physically define our community and our future legacy.

It was shortly after we acknowledged **Palo Alto High School**, last year, that the historic landscape and landmark settings of Paly High was threatened, when the school board planned to install solar carports in the parking lot along the frontage of El Camino Real. The proposed solar carports would have detrimentally impacted the historic setting and diminished the visual quality of the original century old structure. However, it was through the PAST Heritage's and vigilant community member's efforts we were able to persuade the school board to locate these solar panels elsewhere in the community at other non-historic school sites, thereby preserving the historic view of the iconic identifiable building's front entrance and campanile tower.

Recently Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has begun review of **Stanford University's 2018 General Use Plan**. Within this report is Attachment D: Status of Properties Inventoried in the 2017 Historic Resources Survey. This survey failed to make mention or to take into consideration non-academic building, structures, and landscapes; including maintenance and utility buildings, faculty and student housing, administration and support services, and historic landscape features, including gardens, playing fields, green spaces, and wooded areas. These resources must be evaluated, considered, and reviewed by the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission before being eliminated from the 2017

Historic Resources Survey. Further, the inventory must take into account notable historic events or achievements, scientific or medical discoveries, technological innovations, celebrated individuals or important persons, including Nobel Prize winners, artists and writers, prominent architects, and exemplary architectural styles or prototypical period designs. These important historic attributes and qualities cannot simply be overlooked, dismissed, or omitted because certain potential resources are non-academic uses.

Again through PAST Heritage and community member's efforts we brought to the attention of the County Historical Heritage Commission, and County Planning Commission the failings and short-sighted omissions from the report thereby avoiding the lose of potentially significant landmark buildings and structures. I'm pleased to report, we were able to persuade the County Historical Heritage Commission to stop, take a second look, and these short comings hopefully will be addressed by the County Board of Supervisors in their review.

If you value and appreciate these and other legacy landmark buildings, and historic preservation within our community, then **PAST Heritage needs your financial help**. If you value PAST Heritage's speakers, historic walking tours, preservation awards, centennial building plaques, newsletter, and efforts in preserving local historic buildings and legacy architecture, we need your financial help. Please renew your membership, join PAST Heritage as a new member, or simply send a small contribution. We are a volunteer organization, but cannot be a community asset, resource, and voice without your financial support.

Thank you, Lee I. Lippert, AIA

President, PAST Heritage

New Tour: Silicon Valley / Downtown Entrepreneurs

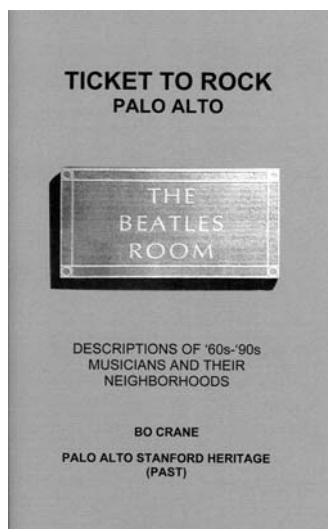
In addition to the regular Downtown Walking Tour, this year PAST is also offering a tour of Downtown past and current buildings and offices with a recent history related to Silicon Valley entrepreneurs. The tour begins October 19 at 10 a.m. and gathers at the Citibank Building pavement circle next to J. Foss, across the street from 520 Ramona.

The tour will cover businesses that remain and those that have come and gone plus where current businesses first launched. Among those to be visited, from the outside of course, are Palantir Technologies, E*Trade, PayPal and Amazon. Former businesses are Danger, Inc., Compaq and Digital.

Also to be seen is the “Good Karma Building,” where Google moved into with both founders and six employees, and the Chinese Restaurant above which Facebook had its first office. Also, is the office above former stables where Steve Jobs had his private office (also on our Homer Avenue Tour, November 2). Not far away, for those who’ve heard about it but never seen it, is the Hewlett Packard garage.



The regular Downtown Tour featuring architectural enhancements from the early 20th Century is scheduled for October 12, 10 a.m. Meet in front of City Hall, 250 Hamilton Avenue.



Ticket to Rock

Ticket to Rock sells for \$10 per copy and \$12 a copy if mailing is involved. Orders can be placed directly to Bo Crane at orders@dennismartin.net. Or by check made out to “Bo Crane” and mailed to Bo Crane, 4283 Wilkie Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

All proceeds after publishing cost reimbursement go to PAST. Orders can also be placed with Bo for book pickup at PAHA Archives, Cubberley Community Center, Room K-7, 4000 Middlefield Road, on Tuesdays from 5 to 9 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1 to 5 p.m.

If you have a question, email Bo at orders@dennismartin.net.

2019 Preservation Award; The Fowler Mansion

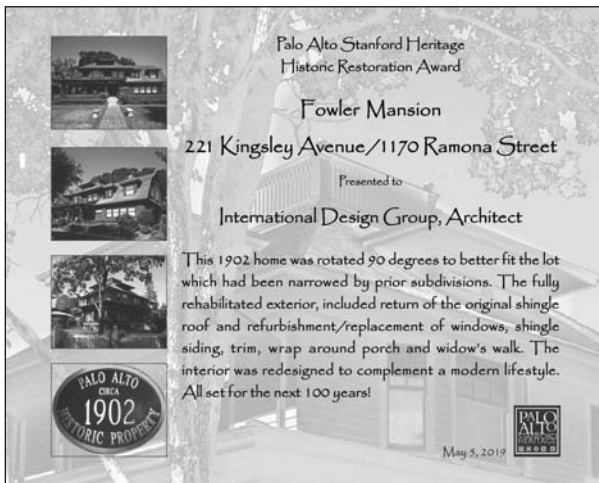
221 Kingsley Avenue / 1170 Ramona Street

Presented to Max and Nhid Keech, Owners; International Design Group, Architect; and Building & Beyond, Contractor

This 1902 home was rotated 90 degrees to better fit the lot which had been narrowed by prior subdivisions. The fully rehabilitated exterior, included return of the original shingle roof and refurbishment/replacement of windows, shingle siding, trim, wrap around porch and widow's walk. The interior was redesigned to complement a modern lifestyle.

All set for the next 100 years!

Before



During



After



The award was presented on May 5, 2019 at the Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road during a joint meeting with the Palo Alto Historical Association. Centennial plaques were presented to 360 Kellogg Avenue and 353 Lowell Avenue.

More photos of the project and presentations are on the PAST website:
www.pastheritage.org/2019awards.html

Palo Alto Historic Resources Board

The HRB reviewed two significant Palo Alto projects recently, the North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan and the proposal from Castilleja School for expansion of their campus and a change to their general use permit.

The City of Palo Alto is preparing **North Ventura Coordinated Area Plan** for a sixty acre area near the California Avenue Caltrain Station. The Fry's building, located at 340 Portage Road, is part of the area of development. The Fry's building was originally developed by Thomas Foon Chew, the owner of Bayside Canning Company, in 1918. His company played a significant part in the agricultural development of Northern California. When he died in 1933 he was the wealthiest Chinese-American in the United States. The historic resource evaluation report found that the buildings that currently occupy the Fry's site meet four eligibility criteria for listing on the California Register of Historic Buildings because they are associated with Criteria 1 (significant events), Criteria 2 (significant persons), Criteria 3 (architecture) and Criteria 4 (informational potential). The buildings also retain integrity in six of seven aspects that define integrity: Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling and Association. The HRB noted in an informal poll that it concurred with these findings in the report.

Castilleja School, located at 1310 Bryant Street, is proposing an multi-phase expansion of their campus and a change to their general use permit. The HRB study session provided members of the public with an additional opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report and HRB members an opportunity to review the historic resources evaluation of the project. Discussion focused on modifications to the Gunn Family Administration building (1910), the Hughes Chapel Theater (1926), the Lockey House (1912), and whether the neighborhood surrounding Castilleja School could be designated as an Historic District. No action was taken by the HRB. The board did suggest additional consideration be given to whether the Lockey House could be considered historically significant and investigate whether the neighborhood surrounding the school site meets the criteria of an historic district .

David Bower



Castilleja School, 1310 Bryant Street



Lockey House, 1263 Emerson Street

Mayor with the Manor

by Bo Crane

The ground on which College Terrace was developed rises about sixty feet from El Camino Real to Amherst Street. Houses built on the uphill side of Amherst are higher still. But the grand manor of the neighborhood is on the other side at 2275 Amherst. The Queen Anne style residence was built in 1893, two years after Stanford University opened, and originally owned by Stanford Classics professor, Walter Miller, then 29. A few years earlier while teaching at the University of Michigan, he married Ralph Waldo Emerson's niece, who was also a college grad in the Classics. Their two daughters were born in Germany as their father was at the University of Leipzig. Stanford University President David Starr Jordan invited the young professor to join the initial faculty. Eleven years later in 1902, due to conflicts with the departmental administration, Miller resigned.

The house was then purchased by a contractor of Irish heritage, Michael Carney. In 1900, Carney, 33, was a grading manager in Salinas for the railroad. His rented home also housed his crew that was comprised of laborers from Ireland, Finland, Germany, Italy and Denmark plus cooks from China. The household went from learned Greek and Latin to European blue collar vernacular.

Ten years later, Carney, now 43, owned the Amherst mansion, free and clear, living with his younger brother, John, 26, and his brother George's widow, Sarah, 25, and her two young children. Also in the household were Sarah's mother, 45, likewise of Irish heritage, and Sarah's sis-

ter, Josephine, 23. Michael, John and Sarah are all listed in the census as railroad contractors. Perhaps Michael, being senior at 43, had provided his brother and sister-in-law work under his auspices.

John soon married his house mate, Josephine. The pair moved to San Francisco where they had several children. Michael remained a bachelor.



An old photo of the grand manor on Amherst shows it elevated on an open site, flanked by trees, bare in winter with a wonderful view of open fields to the southeast. The front entry actually faces the side of the house next door, built in 1924. The entry once opened on Cambridge Avenue as it ran between the two houses. Cambridge then connected all the way from El Camino Real uphill to Amherst.



The former length of Cambridge is now partially taken up by small midblock parks. The same is true for former Oxford Avenue. The 1910 address was 1242 Cambridge Avenue, a street that now stops with addresses in the 500s, a long block of El Camino at Yale.

Due to thick surrounding vegetation, it's diffi-

cult to get a good look at the Amherst house. The pyramidal tower facing Kite Hill is easy enough to spot. It's harder to get even a glimpse of the scalloped shingles, spindles, narrow windows, and elaborate porch.

As president of the Mayfield Board of Trustees, Michael Carney's name appears in a 1913 newspaper article accusing Stanford University of shirking its duty to fund its share of paving El Camino Real, then known as Main Street, through Mayfield. Stanford's attorney argued that the cost of paving was more than the value of the university's frontage. (I suspect



ried and lived with her new husband and her children at 675 Amherst, an address that has since been revised by the renumbering of blocks. Perhaps that's the same house and, if so, she might have had some arrangement with Michael. She and her husband, now starting a new family, remained at 675 Amherst at least into 1936. The condition of what is now 2275 Amherst deteriorated with the 1930s depression when the building served as a boarding house. Rehabilitation began after WWII and major refurbishment occurred from 1976 to 2012. Former owner, Ken DeLeon, the realtor, received permission from the Historic Resources Board in 2014 to perform compliant alterations and additions. Upon listing his remodel for sale, DeLeon, as quoted in January 2015 said of the house: "It's the crown jewel of Palo Alto."

It's definitely at least the crown jewel of College Terrace.

the property in question is now occupied by Palo Alto Square as I can remember horses grazing in the field before it was developed, possibly as late as 1969. Don't know how the dispute turned out but, one way or another, El Camino got paved.)

Michael Carney died at 51 in 1917 and is buried at Menlo Park's Holy Cross Cemetery. Josephine's older sister, Sarah, once wed to Michael's deceased brother George, remar-



Photo taken May 12, 2018 at "birthday celebration" hosted by the current owners, the macarters, after the College Terrace Walking tour.

Historical photos from the Palo Alto Historical Association Archive.

Calendar of Historical Happenings

October 4—Black and White Ball Celebrating Palo Alto's 125 years! Lucie Stern Community Center, 7:00 – 11:59 p.m.

October 5—College Terrace Tour

October 12—Downtown Tour

October 19—Downtown Entrepreneurs Tour

October 27—Professorville Tour

November 2—Homer Avenue Tour

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

Historic Resources Board—1st & 3rd Wed., 8:30 a.m., City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave.

PAST Heritage Board of Directors

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www.pastheritage.org



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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