

## Spring Schedule

May 1— Joint Zoom Webinar with PAHA: 1921 Centennial Homes, Preservation Awards, and Renovation of the Roth Building. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83512000029>

May 7 — Mayfield Tour

May 14 — College Terrace Tour

May 15 — Professorville Tour

May 21 — Crescent Park

May 28 — Homer Avenue Tour

**\*\* Our next mailing will be a membership renewal envelope. Please continue your support! Thanks!**



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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# PAST News

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Spring 2022

## 1921 Centennial Houses & Preserving the Roth Building & Preservation Award Program

May 1, 2022

Join PAST at 2 p.m. as we again join with the Palo Alto Historical Association for their May Zoom Webinar featuring our 26th centennial building and preservation award presentation. The history and current plans to rehabilitate and repurpose the Roth Building (300 Homer Avenue), future home of the Palo Alto Museum, will be discussed by Museum President Rich Green and representatives from Garavaglia Architecture and Vance Brown Builders.

Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83512000029>



**1715 Waverley Street**



**101 Webster Street**



**Roth Building**

## Historic Preservation Tours

Join us this May for a walking tour! You'll find the schedule on page 3 and you can read about the new Mayfield tour on page 2!

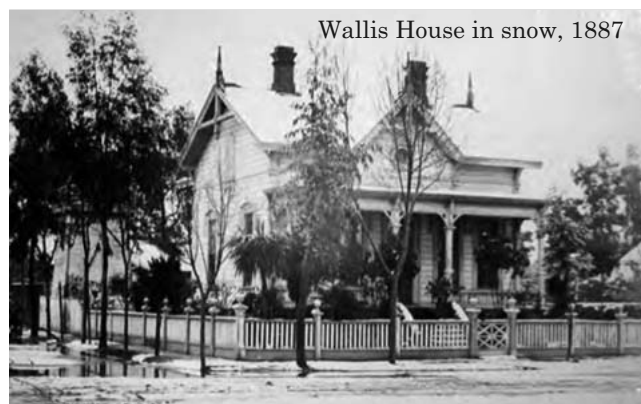
## Mayfield Walking Tour

by Bo Crane

The first ever Palo Alto Stanford Heritage (PAST) walking tour of Mayfield will be held Saturday, May 7, 2022, beginning at 10:00. Those attending are asked to meet at Sarah Wallis Park, 202 Ash Street, corner of Grant Avenue.

Typically, PAST walking tours highlight existing architecture and background stories of the structures. In the case of Mayfield, a town that pre-dated Palo Alto by some 30 years, all the original buildings are gone, except for a few houses that the tour includes and possibly one commercial building. The rest of the walk will visit sites that memorialize the town that was once there.

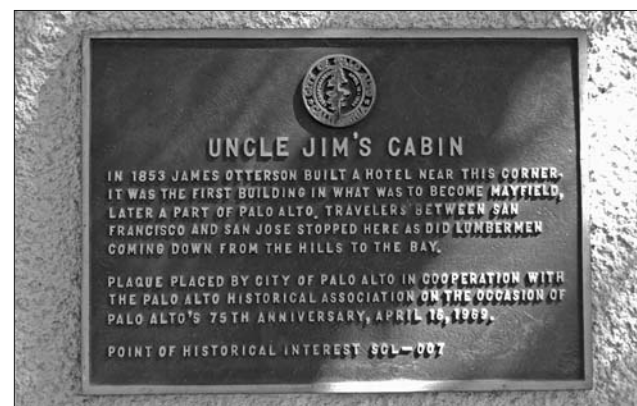
The town of Mayfield's name derives from a farm on the west side of the County Road (El Camino Real). In 1853, an attorney from New York named Elisha Crosby bought 250 acres fronting the rough road, calling his property Mayfield Farm. Crosby went bankrupt in 1856 and his property was acquired by Sarah Wallis in a lawsuit settlement of \$10,000. Sarah had arrived in California by wagon train in 1844. She and her third husband, Joseph Wallis, moved onto the Crosby Farm where they converted Crosby's house into an elaborate mansion. Joseph was elected the local Justice of the Peace in 1858.



Wallis House in snow, 1887

Sarah, in 1870, was elected president of California's first statewide suffrage organization. Visitors to her home in 1871 included Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, both predominant in the women's rights movement. Following a nationwide depression, Sarah and her husband, Joseph, sold Mayfield Farm in 1878 for \$35,000 to Edward Barron, a retired San Francisco financier. Sarah and Joseph moved out of their magnificent mansion that fronted the County Road and had a smaller house built where Sarah Wallis Park is now. In 1879, former president Ulysses S. Grant, on his autobiographical book tour, visited her at her new home. Mayfield Farm would one day become Barron Park.

Mayfield's, and at the time, California's other famous woman pioneer, Juana Briones, bought ranch land alongside Arastradero Road in 1844 but continued to live in San Francisco until it became overrun with gold rush 49ers. She moved to downtown Mayfield in 1884, where she died at age 72 in 1889, reportedly stampeded by cattle.



In 1853, the same year the Crosby made his farmland purchase, James Otterson, born in Nova Scotia, built a tavern on the east side of the County Road, which became Mayfield's Main Street. Uncle Jim's Cabin served as an inn, saloon, and stage stop. Two years later it was also a post office, with Otterson choosing the name Mayfield based on the farm across the

(Continued on page 6)

## Remembering Antonio's Nut House

by Phil Faroudja

I'm sure you all know Antonio's Nut House. Located at 321 California Avenue three blocks from El Camino, Antonio's featured a bar with TVs, 3 pinball machines, 4 pool tables, video games, a stuffed gorilla in a cage, a small restaurant in the back and peanut shells on the floor. It was the city's best known dive bar.



To give a little historical background, in the late 1800s California Avenue was part of the city of Mayfield, which was notorious for its drinking establishments. The situation eventually deteriorated and drunkenness became so prevalent, that in 1904 Mayfield citizens passed an ordinance banning the sale of liquor in taverns. This led to the shuttering of many watering holes; nonetheless, Antonio's was in a way the last remnant of that old saloon tradition.

The building had been a Safeway store before becoming Antonio's Nut House. Fabricated in 1946, it was the first grocery on the thoroughfare and business flourished there for over 30 years.

Owner Antonio Montooth then ran his barroom for four straight decades. It was part of a vibrant street that in the 1980s

and 1990s included a movie theater, a book store, Keeble and Schucat photography, Kirk's restaurant and the Keystone Club which showcased live musical acts from around the world. Those are all no longer there.

When he passed away in 2017, his children took over but lost interest during the pandemic. Last August, they disposed of everything, including the caged gorilla, and walked away. The property currently sits empty and is for lease.

The north wall of Antonio's Nut House has a large mural that is of considerable historical interest. It features an image of Antonio (the fellow with a beard), mixologists, employees and some local characters playing billiards and games. I believe this is worthy of preservation as it not only displays specific people but captures an era, is colorful and adds character to the neighborhood.



Incidentally, Antonio's Nut House had become very popular with the tech industry towards the end. Many luminaries frequented the hangout, and former bartenders and waiters have repeatedly appealed to them to "save" Antonio's. While this has not yet been particularly successful, it may nonetheless be possible to conserve the mural and with it, memories of good times had.

# Spring 2022 Tour Schedule

road. Our second stop will be at a small plaque honoring the tavern. It is located on the stucco wall of the Citibank building on the corner of California Avenue. Uncle Jim's Cabin was actually across California Avenue.

In 1867, William Paul, a Scot born in New York, had his land on the east side of the road surveyed and subdivided as the town of Mayfield. With the Civil War just ended, Paul named the streets Sherman, Grant, Sheridan, and Lincoln, with only Lincoln Street crossing the railroad tracks, constructed in 1864. 1874, Paul sold his property west of El Camino Real to Peter Coutts, a mysterious and apparently wealthy Frenchman.

Two farmers, one from France and the other from Germany, though likely both from the region of Alsace Lorraine, in 1870 bought 120 acres on the west side of County Road, before Peter Coutts or Leland Stanford ever bought land locally. Though each wanted to buy the land, the farmers held out and their rectangular parcel was developed as College Terrace. The oldest homes are across and parallel to El Camino on Yale Street, with the oldest being the Kee House, built in 1889. The house faces the old Cambridge Avenue right-of-way, across from the Peers House, also built in the same year. This row of houses will be the third stop.

The Mayfield Brewery was first located at College and Yale. The tour will view the long block of Yale as well as a small commercial building on College Avenue, built in 1910, likely original, our next stop. Mayfield Brewery was later located in the middle of Mayfield at Birch Street and California Avenue (which had been Lincoln Avenue, changed when Mayfield was annexed in 1925). Leland Stanford wanted Mayfield to close its saloons because his university's students would be residing close by. When Mayfield refused, Stanford

and Timothy Hopkins bought farmland north of Mayfield and mapped it as University Park but marketed it as Palo Alto—a story that will be discussed on the tour.

Well past the Mayfield era, the corner of Birch and California was also the location of the first Safeway grocery store in Palo Alto. The store's shell remains part of the building that recently housed Antonio's Nut House, closed in August 2020.

Eastward on Birch at the corner of Sherman Ave is a sign for the former Herring Box School, a two-room rudimentary log cabin that was Mayfield's first school built in 1855. It was later replaced by the Mayfield Grammar School, occupying where the Palo Alto Courthouse (Superior Court) is located, now closed. The school was later relocated across El Camino Real. A right from Birch on to either Sherman or Grant leads back to Sarah Wallis Park. Mayfield is now ghosted by these few sites but the history has been preserved. The walk will be about a mile and a half long.

Safeway store at California Avenue



Antonio's Nut House



Sat. **Mayfield**  
May 7 Led by Bo Crane  
Meet at Sarah Wallis Park (corner of Grant and Ash)

Sat. **Architecture in College Terrace**  
May 14 Led by Carolyn George  
Meet at 1181 College (corner of Harvard)

Sunday **Professorville**  
May 15 Led by Kris Zavoli and Anne Gregor  
Meet at 1005 Bryant (corner Bryant and Addison)

Sat. **Crescent Park**  
May 21 Led by Margaret Feurer  
Meet at 900 University in front of the Squire House

Sat. **Homer Avenue**  
May 28 Led by Steve Emslie  
Meet at the Palo Alto Woman's Club, 475 Homer

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

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



One of PAST's annual activities is identifying homes that are 100 years old. These homes had building permits in 1921. The completion date is often the next year, so that is why these represent 1921 instead of 1922.



**353 Addison Avenue**



**144 Byron Street**



**140 Churchill Avenue**



**525 Embarcadero Road**



**115 Fulton Street**



**1060 High Street**



**230 Kellogg Avenue**



**563 Lowell Avenue**



**525 Lytton Avenue**



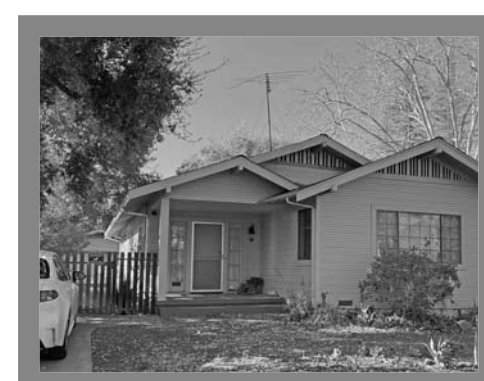
**1111 Middlefield Road**



**428 Ruthven Avenue**



**435 Tennyson Avenue**



**559 Tennyson Avenue**



**159 Waverley Street**



**1336 Webster Street**



**1357 Webster Street**



**1455 Webster Street**



**1633 Webster Street**



**168 Webster Street**