



Historic Resources Board

Staff Report (ID # 8154)

Report Type: Action Items **Meeting Date:** 6/22/2017

Summary Title: 1451 Middlefield: Junior Museum and Zoo

Title: PUBLIC HEARING/QUASI-JUDICIAL: 1451 Middlefield Road [17PLN-00147]: Consideration of an Application for Architectural Review to allow the Replacement of the Junior Museum and Zoo Building With a New 15,033 Square Foot, One-Story Museum and Education Building, Outdoor Zoo with Netted Enclosure, and Reconfiguration of and Improvements to the Existing Parking Lots including Fire Access, Accessible Parking Stalls, Multi-Modal Circulation, Storm Drainage Infrastructure, and Site Lighting. An Initial Study is Being Prepared in Accordance With the California Environmental Quality Act. Zone District: Public Facilities. For More Information Contact Amy French, Chief Planning Official, at amy.french@cityofpaloalto.org.

From: Emily Foley

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Historic Resources Board (HRB) take the following actions:

1. Review and provide comments on the attached Rinconada Park Historic Resource Evaluation (HRE Attachment B); specifically, the portions related to the JMZ project scope. The HRE addresses the significance of the Girl Scout House (aka Lou Henry Hoover House) and the site context of the Junior Museum and Zoo (JMZ), whereas the JMZ HRE (Attachment D) addresses the significance of the JMZ, and
2. Provide preliminary comments regarding the revised site improvements with respect to the Secretary of Interior's Standards (SISR) noted in the HRE analysis (pages 58-61), and
3. Provide input regarding the project's compliance with the Architectural Review (AR) Findings, with particular focus on AR Finding 2B, to assist staff and the Architectural Review Board (ARB) in developing a recommendation to Council.

Report Summary

Staff is seeking the HRB's comments on the HRE and recommendations on the revised project design now on file as a formal Architectural Review application. The HRB reviewed concept plans for the replacement Junior Museum and Zoo (JMZ) in early 2017. The revised site layout and massing concepts were reviewed by the ARB in a second study session after the HRB's study session. The City Council will make the final decision on the AR application.

The JMZ project includes removal of the 1941 JMZ building and construction of a new JMZ that would include an outdoor zoo with netted enclosures. Significant improvements to the site are proposed, with multi-modal circulation, access, storm drainage facilities, and parking lots designed to meet City standards to better serve users of the current and new facilities on the city's 18.26-acre parcel. The project scope was developed in coordination with the Rinconada Park Long Range Plan (RPLRP). The new layout now considers the site in context of the City's bicycle master plan improvements. Plans for the JMZ project (submitted April 27, 2017) are viewable online at the project address; <https://paloalto.buildingeye.com/planning>. An aerial view of the existing conditions is shown in the next report section.

Background

Project Information

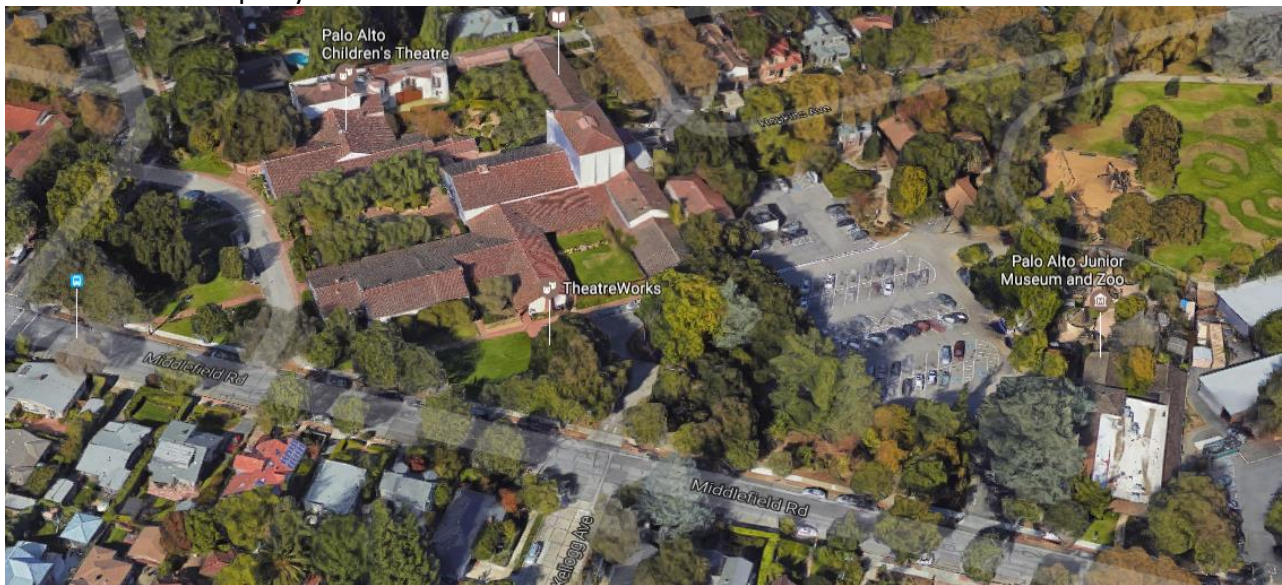
Owner:	City of Palo Alto
Architect:	Sarah Vaccaro, Cody Anderson Wasney
Representative:	John Aiken, Community Services Sr. Program Manager
Legal Counsel:	City Attorney

Property Information

Address:	1451 Middlefield Road (JMZ)
Neighborhood:	Community Center
Lot Dimensions & Area:	JMZ/ Stern Center site has 800' frontage on Middlefield Rd (JMZ key frontage), 245' on Melville Av, 215' on Harriett St, and 245' of shared property line with Walter Hayes School; parcel:795,841 sf (18.3 acres)
Housing Inventory Site:	No
Located w/in a Plume:	No
Protected/Heritage Trees:	Yes
Historic Resource(s):	Lucie Stern Community Center is a Category 1 Resource (includes CSD Administrative offices, Community Center, Children's Theatre, Stern Theatre, Boy Scout facility, Children's Library); JMZ is not on National or California historic register; city parcel includes Rinconada Park, Pool, Fire Station, Substation, and the Lou Henry Hoover House aka Girl Scout House (GSH)
Existing Improvement(s):	JMZ: 9,000 sf, 2-stories, built in 1941
Existing Land Use:	Community Center
Adjacent Land Uses & Zoning:	North of parcel: Residential (R-1 zone) West of parcel: Residential (R-1) East of parcel: Public Elementary School (Walter Hays, PAUSD)

adjacent, and Art Center and Rinconada Library across Newell Road
South of parcel: Residential (R-1)

Aerial View of Property:



Land Use Designation & Applicable Plans

Zoning Designation:	Public Facilities
Comp. Plan Designation:	Major Institutions/Special Facilities
Context-Based	
Design Criteria:	Not applicable
Downtown Urban	
Design Guide:	Not applicable
South of Forest Avenue Coordinated Area Plan:	Not applicable
Baylands Master Plan:	Not applicable
El Camino Real Design Guidelines (1976 / 2002):	Not applicable
Proximity to Residential Uses or Districts (150'):	Yes, across from single family residences
Located w/in the Airport Influence Area:	Not applicable
Special Setback	24 feet on Middlefield Road
Utility Easement/Corridor	Water, sewer and storm drain main lines
<u>Prior City Reviews & Action</u>	
City Council:	Study session conducted on 11/21/16; Staff Report link: http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/54681
PTC:	None
HRB:	Study session conducted on January 26, 2017; HRB report contained a link to January 19, 2017 ARB report that contained the JMZ-specific HRE (Attachment D); Verbatim minutes are available at http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/56819

ARB:	Preliminary reviews conducted on January 19 and March 16, 2017 Verbatim Minutes are available, respectively, at http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/55690 http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/56819
PRC:	Two Study Sessions in 2015; One session April 26, 2016; Report link: http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/52063 The PRC supports reconfigured relationship with Park; Minutes: http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/52999

Project Description

The project is the removal of the JMZ building and construction of a new JMZ building having gabled roofs of varying heights, with new outdoor environments, and site improvements, including a major reconfiguration of the existing parking lots. The applicant's project description found in the attached letter (Attachment A):

- Describes the architect's design approaches to site organization, promenade experience, building and zoo program, massing and materiality, landscape materials and planting, and surrounding site improvements;
- Provides background as to the process and goals;
- Describes a future phase 2 project: construction of a two-story classroom and exhibit building in the location of the proposed outdoor classroom, and addition of a tree fort to the zoo; and notes phase 2 is unfunded and only shown on plans for reference (it is not part of the project under evaluation at this time); and
- Highlights criteria, developed during a 2012 Master Plan process, for (a) Visitor Experience, (b) Collections and (c) Operations goals.

Project Type and Review Process

The project application type is Architectural Review (AR). No other planning entitlement applications are required. The applicant will submit additional details to make the AR application 'complete' prior to the first formal ARB public hearing, tentatively scheduled for July 20, 2017. Because the project site is part of an 18.3-acre parcel that contains an identified historic resource (Lucie Stern Center, Inventory Category 2) and an eligible historic resource (Lou Henry Hoover House), the HRB is tasked to review the project.

The HRB will be invited to comment on the Cultural Resources section of the Initial Study/Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) currently being prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the JMZ project and for the longer term Rinconada Park project (not yet a submitted AR application). The estimated publication date for the IS/MND is July 15, 2017.

Historic Resource Evaluations and Site History

The staff report for the January 26, 2017 HRB study session included the HRE prepared in 2016 for the JMZ building. The HRB is now asked to review the Rinconada Historic Resource Evaluation (HRE, Attachment B) and provide any comments specifically related to the JMZ

project scope. The park improvements are not part of the JMZ project scope. The January staff reports provided background regarding the JMZ building and site context, as well as the HRE that only addressed the JMZ building, also attached to this report (Attachment D).

JMZ

As noted in the JMZ HRE, the zoo was established in 1934 (before the construction of the building) and belongs to a nation-wide pattern of children's museums established in the early 20th century. That HRE determined that the 1941 JMZ building, remodeled and expanded in 1969, is ineligible for listing under any criteria as a historic resource on the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historic Resources, due to significant alterations resulting in a loss of historic integrity. The image below is from 1944 (from the Rinconada HRE).

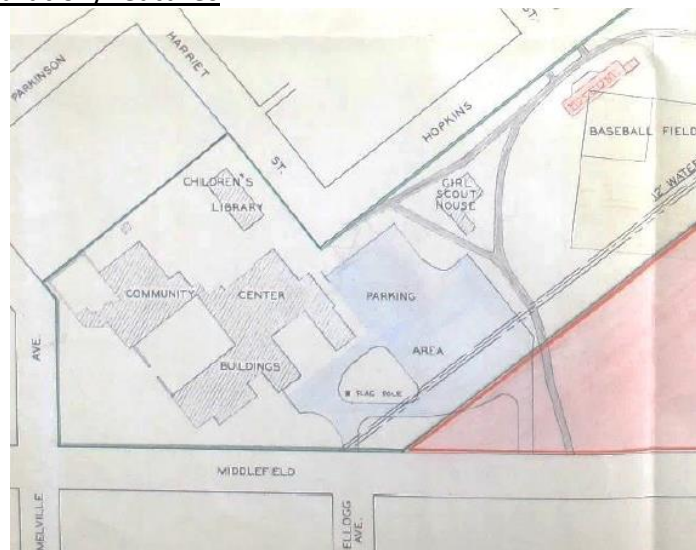


Lou Henry Hoover House

The Rinconada HRE provides information regarding the National Register Eligible Girl Scout House (GSH) aka Lou Henry Hoover House, which is the closest historic building to the JMZ site on the City's parcel; it is located approximately 45 feet to the north. The GSH was built in 1925 by local craftsman and laborers who donated their skills. Designed by Birge Clark, this structure is the oldest active scout meeting house. The building predates Clark's Lucie Stern Community Center (comprised of the main theater, Boy Scout facility, children's theater, and children's library and listed on the City's Historic Inventory as a Category 1 Historic Resource). The GSH, relocated from elsewhere on site in 1936 to the current site (to make way for the Children's Theater), then modified by an addition in 1945, is eligible for listing on both the California and National Historic Registers. The HRE also provides information about Lou Henry Hoover. The below image from the Rinconada HRE of the GSH is from 1939.



Parking Lot Reconfiguration/Features



The existing parking lot at Lucie Stern/JMZ appears to be similar as the original design (by an unknown designer) as shown on a 1941 Public Works drawing (image on prior page was taken from the Rinconada HRE). The reconfiguration of the existing shared parking lots will improve fire access, provide accessible parking stalls and pathways, necessary drainage improvements, and site lighting. Key components are as follows:

- Elimination of the vehicular driveway opposite Kellogg Avenue and creation of a bicycle and pedestrian path within a park-like setting with protection of existing oak trees, to provide multi-modal circulation through a forested 'street side yard' of the Stern center,
- Westward adjustment of the driveway entrance to the JMZ, as the only Middlefield Road entrance to the parking lot serving the complex of facilities (Lucie Stern/GSH/JMZ/Rinconada Park),
- Creation of standard 90 degree parking spaces replacing the inefficient diagonal parking spaces in the existing lots. Some of the existing parking spaces are not striped; there

would be no loss of striped parking spaces within the project site; 98 stalls would be provided in the reconfigured parking lot, plus loading spaces, whereas there are only 95 striped spaces currently; the number of accessible spaces would be increased by one space (from 7 to 8),

- Provision of a landscaped buffer area between the GSH and parking spaces, and landscaped pathway at the rear of the Stern theater shop,
- Creation of two-way vehicle circulation throughout the parking lot, with restrictive gates at one of two Hopkins Avenue driveways to allow only emergency egress,
- Establishment of a new raised pedestrian and bicycle crosswalk connecting the new Kellogg Avenue access path to the Rinconada Park pathway,
- Installation of new parking lot trees and stormwater drainage infrastructure (storm water treatment areas are proposed within both lots shown on plan sheet C2.1),
- Provision of parking lot and pathway site lighting, and lower, pedestrian-level lighting,
- Creation of concrete seat walls provided near the GSH (semi-circular) and along the JMZ entry and in the Jurassic Garden courtyard (straight-line benches), and
- An increase in the number of bicycle parking spaces (25 short term bike parking spaces representing an increase of five spaces, located both at the JMZ entry and next to the outdoor classroom, and 10 long term parking spaces, located near Middlefield (there are no long-term bicycle spaces currently).

The Rinconada HRE provides historical information about these existing landscaped areas:

- (1) picnic/landscaped area west of the JMZ parking lot (circa 1940s, designer unknown),
- (2) landscaped area southwest of JMZ parking lot (circa 1940s, designer unknown),
- (3) the open lawn area west of Lucie Stern Center (circa 1936 – 1940, Clark), and
- (4) paved area and garden west of GSH (circa 1936, designer unknown).

JMZ Building and Fences

The main building is a modified 'U' shaped building designed to preserve existing, mature Pecan and Dawn Redwood trees. The new, one-story building would house the museum as well as zoo support functions. Museum components include exhibit rooms, multi-use room, entry/lobby, offices, collection hub and storage rooms, shop, conference rooms, classroom, restrooms, animal care and supply rooms, and zoo work room, and other building support areas (trash, plumbing, data, electrical, and bike storage; the last three rooms are joined, separated from the main building by a 'tunnel'.) The zoo uses would include animal control/program and storage rooms. Plan sheets A4.0 through A4.4 provide building renderings, elevations, and sections. Sheet A5 shows colored images of the exterior materials and colors.

Building Height, Site Coverage, Floor Area, and Heights

An 18 foot ridge height is proposed near Middlefield Road. The height of the attached, vaulted one story building (the JMZ entrance) would be 27 feet. The height of the central supportive column for the netting over the zoo would be 36 feet.

The existing buildings cover approximately 81,400 square feet (sf) of the 18.3 Acre site; of this coverage, 72,900 sf of coverage is from buildings other than the JMZ building, which covers 8,500 sf. The proposed JMZ buildings would cover an additional 6,533 sf, for a JMZ coverage of 15,033 sf (a total coverage of 87,933 sf on the site). The lot coverage after construction would be 11% of the site where 30% maximum lot coverage is allowed.

The Floor Area Ratio (FAR) on the 18.3 acre site would be 0.11:1 (given current Fire Station #3 building footprint of 3,469 sf), where a 1.0:1 FAR is allowed for PF zoned sites. The Fire Station #3 footprint will be reduced by 79 sf, to 3,390 sf.

Fence Heights: Several types of fences or wall enclosures are proposed with varying heights, materials and functions.

- **Standing Seam Metal Walls:** This maroon-colored wall type would be used at two different locations, with different heights:
 - (1) Outdoor Classroom and Zoo: A twelve foot tall, standing-seam metal outdoor enclosure wall would be the nearest structure to the GSH. The proposed height is taller than the plate height of the GSH building. The wall would face the parking lot and GSH and Rinconada Park, and would continue around the zoo until the wall type and height changes, next to the 'rabbit meadow'.
 - (2) Zoo Management Area: At the raccoon exhibit, the (red) standing-seam metal wall would resume at a height of eight feet, to enclose the outdoor zoo animal management area facing the park.
- **Lithocrete Concrete Wall:** At the Rabbit Meadow and facing the park, the zoo enclosure wall would be a brownish, ten-foot tall wall alongside the zoo until the raccoon exhibit.
- **Middlefield Road Fence:** The height of the fence facing Middlefield Road would be eight feet, and made of steel frame with vertical wood slats and an 'artistic pattern.'
- **Entry and Garden Low Mesh Fence:** A three-foot-tall metal fence with mesh infill panels, facing the parking lot, would enclose the Jurassic garden and JMZ entry area. Two gate locations are proposed facing the parking lot, and additional gates are proposed facing Middlefield Road and the GSH.

Outdoor Zoo Design

The proposed outdoor zoo area includes an outdoor classroom, separated from the building by the 'pecan tree plaza'. Several 'bridges' would lead pedestrians from Middlefield Road sidewalk to the tunnel, and connect to the other entry plazas (promenade entry plaza, pecan tree plaza, and park arrival plaza). The 'Jurassic Garden Courtyard' would be sheltered in the 'U' of the building. The netted enclosure area, "Loose in the Zoo", would contain various zoo exhibits. The outdoor area east of zoo would provide an animal management area, and would also be covered with netting, at a lower level.

Site Lighting, Landscaping, and Trees

Lighting Design

The two "E" sheets of the project plan set show proposed site lighting, proposed as follows:

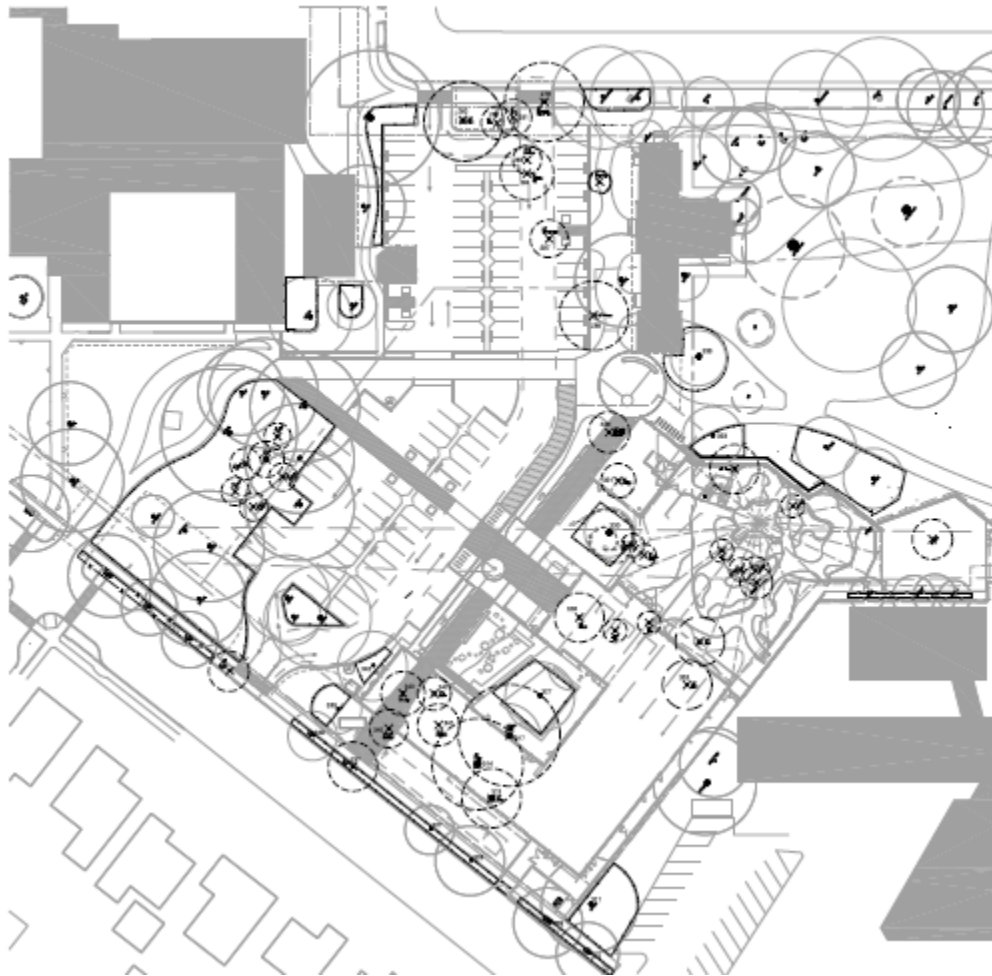
- LED Parking lot lights manufactured by Bega (shown on plan sheet E1.00, with photometrics shown on plan sheet E1.0P), with the following specifications:
 - 14-foot tall, single-head pole lights (type B1, flush-base mounted, lower-wattage (14 Watts)) next to Middlefield Road (3), lining the JMZ sidewalk (3), and the raised walkway marking the 'two' parking lots (3);
 - 14-foot tall, double-head pole lights (type A1, flush-base mounted, lower-wattage (14 Watts)) near Lucie Stern (2), and GSH (3);
 - 17-foot tall, double-head pole lights (type A, mounted on 36-inch base, higher wattage (39Watts)) in the center aisles of the parking lot (7);
 - 11-foot tall, single-head pole lights (type B, mounted on 36-inch base, higher wattage (26 Watts)) alongside the edge of Stern 'park side yard' and back of Stern (6), and
- LED pedestrian-level lighting (by an as-yet unknown manufacturer) in the JMZ garden and sidewalk under benches and lattice, on the low fence, and up-lighting (of trees, signage, and the flagpole).

Landscape Design

Plan sheet A1.1, the proposed site plan, provides an overview of the landscape plan for the reconfigured parking lot and JMZ site. Plan sheet L1.1 shows a landscape plan around the proposed JMZ building perimeter and images of the proposed landscape character. Plan sheets L1.2 – L1.4 show landscape sections. A planting plan, showing the proposed plant materials, is provided as Plan sheet L1.5. The applicant has worked with the City's Landscape Architect to ensure the selected plant materials will meet the Architectural Review approval finding that requires regionally indigenous and drought tolerant plant materials.

Tree Protection and Plantings

A tree protection plan is provided as Plan sheet T-2. The plan is excerpted on the next page of this report, to illustrate the applicant's proposal to retain most of the trees on the site, as are bullets that provide specifics about the tree retention and plantings.



- The heritage Pecan and Dawn Redwood near the new JMZ building would be retained.
- All trees in the Lucie Stern 'side yard' would be retained.
- Only two street trees on Middlefield would be removed; one to make way for the new driveway and another to allow free passage and visibility of the JMZ tunnel gateway.
- The Arborist Report indicates that 23 of the 49 assessed trees would be removed, and all protected trees (oaks) would be retained.

The Tree Protection Plan and Draft Arborist Report provide more detailed information regarding the condition of existing trees and proposed tree removals. The Arborist Report is being finalized and will be provided with the ARB staff report.

The planting plan indicates planting of 51 new 24" box sized trees, for a net increase of 28 trees on the JMZ and parking lot site. Bullets below provide specifics:

- Many of the new trees would be located within the parking lot (most of the 27 Texas Redbuds and six of nine new Gingkos, meeting the shade requirements).
- Three Gingkos and two Texas Redbuds would line the Middlefield Road elevation.
- Three additional Redbuds would be placed on PAUSD property, and likely screen the southwesterly corner of the new building.

- Two London Planes would be planted at the Hopkins parking lot entrance.
- Two Coast Live Oaks would be planted in the 'front yard' of the GSH.
- Seven Vine Maples would be planted along the parking lot edge of the JMZ walkway.
- Two of four Persian Ironwoods are proposed as accent trees in the parking lot and the other two Ironwoods would be located elsewhere (to be clarified).

The new trees list from the planting plan is excerpted below.

TREES					
SYM	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	QUANTITY	COMMENTS
AC	ACER CIRCINATUM	VINE MAPLE	24" BOX	7	MULTI-TRUNK
CS	CATALPA SPECIOSA	CATALPA TREE	24" BOX	-	-
CC	CERCIS C. OKLAHOMA	TEXAS REDBUD	24" BOX	27	-
GB	GINKGO BILOBA	MAIDENHAIR TREE	24" BOX	9	NON-FRUITING
LI	LAGERSTROMIA I. 'NATCHEZ'	NATCHEZ CRAPE MYRTLE	24" BOX	-	-
PP	PARROTIA PERSICA	PERSIAN IRONWOOD	24" BOX	4	-
PC	PISTACIA CHINENSIS	CHINESE PISTACHE	24" BOX	-	-
PA	PLATANUS A. 'BLOODGOOD'	LONDON PLANE TREE	24" BOX	2	-
QA	QUERCUS AGRIFOLIA	COAST LIVE OAK	24" BOX	2	-

Analysis¹

This analysis is focused on the areas covered by the HRB's purview, and also provides some background for why certain modifications are needed. Additional project analysis will be provided in the ARB staff report, once additional project details have been received.

Consistency with the Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan²

With 150,000 annual visits, JMZ provides a strong start for children; JMZ is integral to Rinconada Park and the park is integral to the JMZ. The Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo (JMZ) works closely with researchers and professionals to provide a rich environment that stimulates children's natural curiosity and creativity. The proposed project is consistent with Policy C-26 of the Community Services element of the Comprehensive Plan that encourages maintaining park facilities as safe and healthy community assets; and Policy C-22 that encourages new community facilities to ensure adaptability to the changing needs of the community.

New Building Design Character and Neighborhood Setting/Character

The preliminary review staff reports had described the context, proximity to the one-story Walter Hayes School and public facilities, and one- and two-story residential neighborhood. These reports noted the significance of the Birge Clark designed Lucie Stern Community Center, circa 1932- 1940, with its Spanish Colonial Revival style and status as a historic category 1 building, as well as the likely significance of the Lou Henry Hoover House. The report noted the historic buildings on the site as primarily one-story with some two story components. The HRB

¹ The information provided in this section is based on analysis prepared by the report author prior to the public hearing. The Architectural Review Board in its review of the administrative record and based on public testimony may reach a different conclusion from that presented in this report and may choose to make alternative findings. A change to the findings may result in a final action that is different from the staff recommended action in this report.

² The Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan is available online:
<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/topics/projects/landuse/compplan.asp>

viewed a two-story project at that time, and the ARB was able to view a conceptual one-story project and provide input.

The now-gabled, one-story JMZ building appears to have greater compatibility with the existing older buildings on the site. The HRB can provide assistance to staff and the ARB regarding AR Finding #2b.

Rinconada HRE

The Rinconada HRE dated June 8, 2017, includes an analysis of the proposed JMZ project with respect to the Secretary of Interiors' Standards for Rehabilitation. The HRE states that the JMZ project does not comply with all of the SISR and notes (page 62) that "further analysis is required." However, the following paragraph provides that further analysis and concludes, "the JMZ project does not cause a significant impact to historic resource at Rinconada Park". Staff is in agreement with this finding. Additionally, staff supports the relocation of the bird bath (circa 1925) to the Boy Scout Building as appropriate, and the enhancement of the picnic area.

The Rinconada HRE notes that the Girl Scout House (GSH) is eligible for California Register of Historic Resources under Criterion 1 for its early role in Scouting and Criterion 2 for association with Lou Henry Hoover. Staff intends to work with members of the HRB and Girl Scouts organization to prepare a nomination form for the HRB to recommend Council place the GSH on the City Inventory.

Modifications to the Lucie Stern Center Site

The existing parking lot design from 1941 (when the JMZ was built) was not part of Birge Clark's Lucie Stern Center and the designer is unknown, according to the Rinconada HRE. The proposed project would not adversely impact the significant features at the Lucie Stern Center. The modifications will provide organized, efficient circulation for automobiles and safe, continuous circulation for bicycles and pedestrians. The proposed pavement removal to establish a forested "street side yard" of Lucie Stern Center would result in an appearance more closely resembling the original design of the Center.

Stormwater Design

The site plan indicates storm water system connections and treatment infrastructure. The lot reconfiguration is designed to meet storm-water discharge requirements of the provision C.3 of the NPDES municipal storm water discharge permit issued by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (and incorporated into Palo Alto Municipal Code Chapter 16.11). C.3 regulations apply to the project, since the project would replace 10,000 sf or more of impervious surface, and the parking lot would create and/or replace 5,000 square feet or more of impervious surface. Permanent site design measures, source controls, and treatment controls to protect storm water quality are subject to the approval of the Public Works Department. Landscape-based treatment controls (bio-swales, filter strips, and permeable pavement) are proposed to treat the runoff from a "water quality storm" prior to discharge to the municipal storm drain system. Public Works requires applicants to contract with a qualified third-party reviewer during the planning review process to certify that the proposed permanent

storm water pollution prevention measures comply with the requirements of Palo Alto Municipal Code Chapter 16.11. The applicant is working toward obtaining this certification.

Parking Lot Shade and Tree Planting Requirement

The revised project appears to meet the City's requirement for 50% shading of parking lots and a requirement for one parking lot tree for every ten parking spaces in a row. The project architect has worked with the City's landscape architect to balance the requirements for shade and tree numbers with pedestrian wayfinding and storm water drainage needs.

Compliance Review and Logistics

The parking lot design has been evaluated to ensure it meets standards for driveways, curbs and sidewalks. Building permit applications would involve further disclosures, including submittal of a logistics plan(s). Logistics plans include pedestrian and vehicle traffic controls, truck routes and deliveries, contractor parking, on site staging and storage areas, concrete pours, crane lifts, noise and dust control. Conditions of approval and other measures can be designed to minimize adverse, temporary impacts of construction on residential neighborhoods.

Zoning Compliance³

This project is subject to meeting the AR approval findings. The AR findings are attached to this report (Attachment E). AR finding 2b is likely of particular interest to the HRB. The project is not subject to Context Based Design Criteria, nor to any interim ordinances or moratoriums. The project was evaluated to ensure adequate infrastructure provisions such as meters and transformers, backflow prevention devices, and trash and recycling facilities, to meet other AR findings.

The project plans indicate conformance with lot coverage, floor area ratio, setbacks and height development standards within the Public Facilities Zone District. The additional 6,033 sf of floor area proposed for the JMZ is not intended to increase the need for parking spaces on the site. Community Center use has an open-ended parking requirement – the Planning and Community Environment Director can determine how many spaces are required to meet the need. No Director's Parking Adjustment is required associated with the increased building area, given the proposed parking lot reconfiguration and accompanying transportation and parking alternatives (Transportation Demand Management Plan).

Multi-Modal Access, Parking and TDM

The transportation staff have reviewed and guided development of the revised plans with respect to addressing the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and Safe Routes to School. The traffic study and TDM plan will be reviewed by the City's CEQA consultant, and included as source documents for the CEQA document. The Parks and Recreation Commission will review the TDM plan as well as the Initial Study following publication of those documents. Staff has confirmed the revised plan is likely to result in efficient and safe circulation and minimization of

³ The Palo Alto Zoning Code is available online: http://www.amlegal.com/codes/client/palo-alto_ca

conflicts. The project would improve facilities for bicycle and pedestrian routes, including bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding and accessibility enhancements on and off-site. The revised project features a passenger drop off area at the new JMZ entry, and other improvements for safety related to the longer-term Rinconada Plan. Transportation Division staff had provided comments during the preliminary review phase of the project, regarding the need for coverage over bike parking, secured parking provisions, and the disadvantages of wall-mounted bike parking. The revised plans address these comments.

The applicant has prepared a transportation demand management (TDM) plan, which is a source document for the CEQA document currently being prepared. The TDM plan is intended to not only reduce parking demand, but also to provide clear transportation options to residents and visitors.

Green Building

Earlier this year, City Council adopted the new Green Building and Energy Reach so that compliance with the 2016 building code requirements will satisfy the City's LEED Silver equivalent alternative for City buildings.

Environmental Review

Environmental review of the most recent version of the JMZ proposal is underway. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City's consultant (Powers) is preparing an Initial Study for publication with the packet for the formal ARB review hearing, tentatively scheduled for July 20, 2017. The Initial Study will cover both the JMZ project and the Rinconada Park Long Range Master Plan. Technical reports that were prepared for this project cover several subjects. The Initial Study is supported by these documents: Air Quality Report, Arborist Assessment, Noise Assessment, Traffic Assessment, and Historic Resource Evaluation (HRE).

As noted, the HRB will have a role in commenting on the Aesthetics and Cultural Resources sections of the CEQA document. Meanwhile, the Historic Resources Evaluation prepared by the City's consultant, Page and Turnbull, is attached for HRB review and comment.

Public Notification, Outreach & Comments

The Palo Alto Municipal Code requires notice of this public hearing be published in a local paper and mailed to owners and occupants of property within 600 feet of the subject property at least ten day in advance. Notice of a public hearing for this project was published in the *Palo Alto Weekly* on June 9, 2017, which is at least 12 days in advance of the meeting. Postcard mailing occurred on June 9, 2017, which is 10 days in advance of the HRB meeting.

Public Comments

As of the writing of this report, no project-related, public comments were received regarding the formal submittal. Public comments have been provided in public hearings of the City's Parks and Recreation Commission.

Next Steps

The Architectural Review Board will conduct a public hearing, tentatively scheduled for July 20, 2017. As noted, the project decision will be made by City Council.

Alternative Actions

In addition to the recommended action, the HRB may:

1. Continue the public hearing discussion until after the publication of the Initial Study, to allow full board discussion of the cultural resources section.

Report Author & Contact Information

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HRB⁴ Liaison & Contact Information

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Attachments:

- Attachment A: Applicant's April 27 Project Description (PDF)
- Attachment B: HRE Rinconada June 8 2017 (PDF)
- Attachment C: Tree Assessment Plan - JMZ June 2017 (PDF)
- Attachment D: Jr Museum and Zoo HRE (PDF)
- Attachment E: AR findings (DOCX)

⁴ Emails may be sent directly to the HRB using the following address: hrb@cityofpaloalto.org

DATE	April 27, 2017
PROJECT NAME	Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo
SUBJECT	Formal Planning and ARB Review Submittal: Project Description

Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo Background

As the Bay Area's only children's science center and zoo, the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo (JMZ) is a place where children and families explore, wonder and make discoveries about the natural world. Our mission is to engage a child's curiosity for science and nature.

For visiting children, especially toddlers and preschoolers, we provide multi-sensorial, kinesthetic and play-based exhibits, authentic artifacts, hands-on programs, and live animal encounters designed to connect children to early science concepts. Our exhibit messaging is designed to cultivate empathy for the natural world and introduce conservation issues and solutions.

For school-aged children, the museum offers annually 1,100 in-depth and hands-on science classes to 4,000 students in local elementary schools, at the museum, and in local open space preserves where students gain concrete experience and practice with scientific methods and theory, and conservation practice.

The JMZ is a unique and highly valued resource for children. Child development research shows that the physical experiences offered here foster the development of abstract reasoning skills and improve learning. Research also shows that engagement with zoo animals helps children cultivate empathy for the natural world and to support conservation of wildlife and wild places.

The JMZ's intimate and approachable scale and consistent staffing has helped us forge rich and long-term relationships with our community—relationships that have allowed us to broaden and deepen the impact of our work.

As the Junior Museum and Zoo approaches its 80th year, the museum and zoo are constrained by a facility that no longer reflects the needs of its visitors, collections, and operations. Due to inadequate storage and support spaces, accreditation options for both the Museum and Zoo are unobtainable. While the Educators continue to deliver outstanding educational programs, they are severely limited by lack of office, preparation and storage spaces. In addition, there are many accessibility and safety concerns in the existing facility and the surrounding site.

The Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum engaged the architectural firm of Cody Anderson & Wasney Architects, Inc. to work with a broad array of stakeholders to complete a facilities master plan in 2011 and 2012 evaluating program and operational needs, inadequacies of the existing facility, and options for renovation or new construction. During the master plan process, the following criteria was developed:

Visitor Experience

- Tailor spaces for experiences to specific audience segments, including early childhood audiences and children with special needs.
- Develop safe and effective ways to connect children with live animals.
- Develop classrooms that improve student engagement and learning impact.
- Improve access, safety, restrooms and way finding.
- Create opportunities for outdoor "play in nature" experiences.
- Improve access from the JMZ to Rinconada Park amenities: playground; Children's Library; Children's Theatre; Stern Community Center; Art Center; Walter Hays Elementary.

Collections

- Provide facilities for animal health and quarantine to meet the standards of the American Zoological Association (AZA).
- Improve the care and storage areas for the non-living collections--held in public trust by the Museum—to meet the standards of the American Museum Association (AMA) standards.

Operations

- Improve storage, access, and work areas to ensure staff safety, efficiency and effectiveness of operations.
- Implement green building practices.

The overarching goal of the master plan is to "right size" the JMZ facilities to properly support the progressive and innovative educational and science based programs they provide to the community. Due to the limitations of the existing facilities and infrastructure, the facility master plan culminated in a recommendation to demolish the existing museum and zoo buildings and replace with a new facility sized to adequately support the educational mission, outreach, and public programs for Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo.

Project Description and Scope

The proposed design for the Junior Museum & Zoo Project includes constructing a new museum and education building, outdoor zoo with netted enclosure, and perimeter site improvements on the site of the current facilities. The project scope also includes the reconfiguration of the existing shared parking lot, fire access and coverage, accessible parking stalls and pathways, storm drainage and site lighting. The proposed project scope has been and will continue to be developed in coordination with the Rinconada Master Plan for the surrounding park improvements, parking lot reconfiguration and adjacent public facilities.

The Junior Museum & Zoo is located on one contiguous city-owned parcel of land which includes the historic Lucie Stern Community Center, Children's Library and Theater, Girls Scout Building, Rinconada Park, Rinconada Pool, Fire Station, Power Substation, shared-use parking lot and the JMZ. The existing JMZ building is located directly on the shared property line with Walter Hays Elementary School. The existing JMZ exterior zoo is located within the Rinconada Park boundary. The buildable area of the site is further constrained by the parking lot, multiple heritage and mature specimen trees and an existing utility corridor running underneath the existing exterior zoo.

The challenge of this project is to design a museum, education center and zoo adequately sized to accommodate the program while working within the multiple layers of site goals and constraints. Goals and constraints include minimizing the impact and improving the interface with Rinconada Park, reconfiguring the parking lot to clarify circulation and increase safety, protecting heritage and mature feature trees, improving visibility and way finding along Middlefield, and integrating a new public building within the adjacent residential neighborhood context.

Design Approach: Site Organization

Our design approach strives to clarify site circulation and connections within the 18-acre public site, establish a civic presence for the Junior Museum & Zoo by referencing the adjacent history Lucie Stern complex and Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout building, and create a pedestrian scaled approach from Middlefield Road.

In referencing the formal procession and organization of the Lucie Stern complex around central courtyards, the main entrance to the JMZ is centered within a gracious entry courtyard fronting the main approach from the parking lot. Perpendicular to this formal approach is a promenade connecting Middlefield Road to the JMZ entry plaza to the Park Arrival Plaza. This promenade defines the more intimate courtyards encircling the existing feature Dawn Redwood and Pecan trees.

The site design approach is to create a layered effect of the formal approach and promenade, clean and orthogonal plan, and variety of scaled courtyards and establish a civic presence for the JMZ facilities that reflects the importance of its programs and experiences to the Palo Alto community.

Design Approach: Promenade Experience

The JMZ mission is to engage a child's curiosity for science and nature. This mission statement is the organizing design principle for the site, building and zoo design. The promenade connecting Middlefield Road to the JMZ entry plaza to the Park Arrival Plaza is a journey through interactive exhibits, installations, and landscapes with science and nature. These experiences are tied to the principles of physical, life, earth and space, and applied sciences and allow children to play, explore, self-direct, and use all their senses.

Starting on Middlefield, a tunnel through the building allows children to play with rainbows and light created by skylight prisms. The tunnel opens as a larger portal on Middlefield signifying entrance for pedestrians and facets into a smaller child-scaled portal leading into the Jurassic Garden courtyard.

There are multiple experiences in the Jurassic Garden courtyard for both the public and JMZ visitors. The public experience is bridging over a bio-swale highlighting earth science concepts of storm water treatment and ecological systems of native planting and animals. Children will have the opportunity to branch off from the bridge and hop along a boulder path through the bio-swale. The public experience is mirrored by the JMZ visitor experience (entered from the exhibit gallery and classrooms) of Jurassic themed plants, rocks, fossils and dinosaurs encircling the Jurassic-era Dawn Redwood tree. Children will also be able to climb down into the bio-swale from the JMZ visitor side.

The entry plaza is the intersection of the main approach from the parking lot and the promenade and is themed around concepts of physical science. Children can stand at the center of the sundial, cast their shadow onto markings in the pavement, to learn about time, movement of the sun and shadows. The structure of the building extrudes out into the plaza creating a entry portico. This structure creates a framework for a public art installation, designed to showcase the natural features of the site such as wind patterns or physical science concepts of gravity. The portico also creates a flexible area for JMZ exhibits to spill out of the exhibit gallery into the public plaza.

The Pecan Tree courtyard creates a sheltered play area for children to hop, jump, crawl, climb like animals over a stump maze and obstacle course. Animal footprints in the paving and resilient surfacing will lead children to kid-scaled view portals into the

"loose-in-the zoo" beyond. During the first phase of this project, the walled outdoor classroom will open to both the Pecan Tree plaza and loose-in-the zoo allowing for public events and zoo themed programs.

The Park Arrival Plaza is the intersections of four main pathways of the site calling for a radial configuration. At the center of this plaza will be the sun and the rest of the scaled solar system will radiate into Rinconada park extending the themes of science and nature into the park. The concepts of scale and mathematical patterns are integrated into the zoo wall along the park, paving along the promenade and fence along Middlefield Road and Walter Hays.

The experience of science and nature in these exterior spaces directly links with the experiences of science, nature and animals as visitors move into the exhibit hall, classrooms and loose-in-the zoo.

Design Approach: Building and Zoo Program

The JMZ main entrance centered on the exterior entry plaza ushers visitors into an intimate lobby that opens into the higher volume space of the exhibits gallery. Three skylight monitors and a north-facing curtain wall allow natural daylight to fill the exhibits gallery. Clear circulation and lines of site will allow visitors to proceed into the exhibit gallery, out to the loose in the zoo or out to the Jurassic Garden courtyard. The higher volume of the exhibit gallery steps down to lower volume spaces for more intimate baby spaces, temporary exhibits, views into the back-of house spaces and connections to the multi-use room.

The exhibit gallery, multi-use room, classroom, staff office area and collections storage spaces encircle and are connected by the Jurassic Garden courtyard. The multi-use classroom has direct access to the exhibit gallery and Jurassic Garden courtyard, creating a flexible space for classes, evening events, birthday parties, board meetings and more. The JMZ educators will be able to leverage the exterior courtyard space to enrich and expand the indoor classroom experiences.

The concept for the zoo is a completely netted enclosure where birds, small mammals and children can roam about freely - loose in the zoo! Within the larger netted enclosure, there will be enclosed exhibits for larger animals - bobcats, raccoons, tortoises, meerkats along with a flamingo and waterfowl pond and raised turtle pool with "crawl-thru" opportunities. The central feature of the loose in the zoo will be the large artificial tree, where children will be able to crawl around the root zone. In a future phase, children will be able to climb up to a tree-fort experience in the canopy (see more about phase two below). The loose in the zoo netted enclosure forms a spider-like web overhead. The loose-in-the zoo enclosure will have a wall around it's perimeter to meet zoo accreditation requirements. This wall creates opportunities for educational and interactive exhibits, gathering spaces, and play areas for visitors in the park beyond the zoo enclosure as well.

The exterior zoo support area located beyond loose in the zoo houses the zoo animals when they are not in loose in the zoo as well as space to store zoo maintenance materials. The area will have a wall around it's perimeter and netting over the top. An exterior service corridor accessed from Middlefield will connect the exhibits workshop, program animal support spaces, trash enclosure and zoo service spaces.

Design Approach: Massing and Materiality

The architectural massing, organization and form create the setting, the stage, the framework for the child's engagement with interactive science and nature exhibits while also referencing the historic and residential context of the site. The architectural materials, systems and details reflect the contemporary language of today while taking cues from the site and historical context.

The building is a simple gabled roof form with tight eaves referencing the form of the historic Lucie Stern Complex and Lou Henry Hoover House as well as many residential neighbors. The building is organized into long bars that break, wrap and step to create tunnels, courtyards, shorter and taller volumes. These forms create the stage for the JMZ experience based on site specific and program needs. The architecture then circles back to further reinforce the concepts of science and nature through material, structure, systems and details.

The taller mass house the exhibit gallery and expresses a simple structural system of rigid steel frames on the interior of space as well as the exterior entry plaza portico. Exposing the structure allows the building to be used as an educational example of physical and applied scientific concepts. The standing metal seam roof and exterior wall material wraps the building and creates a continuous exterior shell with no roof eave. The shell material peels back to reveal the building structure at the entry plaza portico. The portico steel frames are wrapped with warm wood slats forming a protected lath house porch. The wood material continues into the building, covering the interior walls and ceiling of the exhibit gallery. The alignment and continuation of exterior to interior materials is visible through the large curtain wall entry façade.

The lower masses along Middlefield and property line with Walter Hays step down to respect the residential neighborhood scale. The exterior walls are clad in vertical cedar planks and the roof is the same standing metal seam material serving to further break down the scale of these masses. A taught eave line on the lower mass further references the tight eaves and transition from plaster walls to clay tile roofs on the Lucie Stern buildings. The building eave, skin and structure extends three feet beyond the exterior wall along a portion of the Middlefield facade to provide shade protection for the storefront windows facing south east.

The accent color and material (as shown in red standing metal seam in renderings and elevations) used on awning serves as a wayfinding to highlight the building entrance, tunnel portal and connection between exhibit gallery and zoo. The raised skylight monitors into the exhibit gallery and along the Middlefield façade are clad in the same accent color and material referencing the form of a chimney and articulating the long gabled roofs.

The architectural details of the building and site invoke whimsy and child-like scale into the simple massing contemporary materials. Square punched windows of various sizes and sill heights project out to create a bay-window type seat inside the spaces for children and parents. The variation and rhythm of the standing metal seam ribs and vertical wood slats on the entry portico and fencing articulate mathematical and colorful patterns for children to discover. Linear light fixtures will be integrated into the rhythm of the wood slats of the entry portico to create a playful pattern of light above the entrance.

Concrete seat walls along the promenade are topped with wood planks referencing the exterior building material and creating warmer benches. Corten steel plate edges to the metal grade bridges, raised walkways and planting areas will naturally rust and weather similar to the weathering of clay tile roofs and brick walkways. Soft exterior lighting will be integrated into seat walls, benches, low fences to illuminate paths. In-ground up lighting will softly feature the Dawn Redwood and Pecan Trees. The concrete pathways and resilient surfacing will have animal tracks and human footprint paths allowing children to discover and explore. The Jurassic Garden courtyard will be layered with fossils and dinosaur prints cast into lithocrete concrete benches referencing sedimentary layers of earth.

Design Approach: Landscape Materials and Planting

Existing Tree Protection Plan: existing trees along Middlefield, in the adjacent parking lot, and in the JMZ landscape areas are to be protected during construction and pruned to improve health and form. High profile and sensitive trees such as the Dawn Redwood and the Pecan tree will receive pre-construction mitigation measures in addition to protection during construction.

Bridge over Bio-swale along Middlefield Road: the bridge is made of open grid metal decking with steel curb edges. It crosses a planted storm water swale that includes sedge grasses and other appropriate water loving plants. The existing JMZ sign is to be relocated to a planted area adjacent to the bridge.

Edge of Promenade Along New Parking Lot: adjacent to the parallel vehicle parking and drop-off zone there will be a 4' wide access sidewalk behind curb. A planted berm with small trees and ground cover shrubs separates these areas from JMZ promenade. A decorative metal fabric barrier fence with vine planting runs through this area forming a visually soft but physical barrier.

Jurassic Garden (Dawn Redwood) Courtyard: the bridge over bio-swale continues from Middlefield to the edge of this courtyard, continuing the public promenade. Low concrete bench seat walls flank the bridge. A planted storm water swale similar to along Middlefield is accessible for children by means of large stepping stones that provide an adventurous path and protect sedge grasses and other sensitive hydrosphylic plants in the swale. A decorative barrier screen meanders through this area separating the public promenade from the JMZ visitor experience. The JMZ visitors have access by means of a sloped walkway down into a geology play area within the planted storm water swale. The feature Dawn Redwood tree is encircled by metal bridge decking. The decking is cantilevered from the building to avoid the need for footings. The edges of the decking are defined by low benches and raised planters. The raised planters will allow for a lush and interesting collection of Jurassic era plants with minimal disturbance in the Dawn Redwood root zone. The surface grade at Dawn Redwood remains unchanged with only shallow rooted planting in this area. Foot traffic discouraged by elevated perimeter walkway and curbs. Additional geology exhibits and dinosaur sculpture are possible in this area.

Entry Plaza: includes a stand-on sundial partially enclosed with a circular bench similar in design to other bench walls on site. Paving includes a variety of concrete colors and textures and dinosaur and animal footprint impressions. Bike parking is provided at the primary entry from the parking lot and is located outside metal fabric barrier fence and gate.

Pecan Tree Courtyard: the public promenade is defined by a concrete walkway that slopes gently toward the Rinconada Park arrival plaza and Girl Scout Building. Walkway paving is embellished with color and texture and walkway is flanked by bench walls. This courtyard is an active play area that includes resilient surface play with "How far can a jack rabbit, a deer, a child, a ___ jump?" graphics. Engineered wood fiber is used on surface under existing Pecan tree. This area includes an adventure play area with stumps and large wood pieces and blocks salvaged from Cedar trees removed for construction. A "Fallen Tree" and "Stick Hut" are landscape features that allow views and visual connections into the loose-in-the zoo area beyond.

Park Arrival Plaza: the paving for this area is embellished with color and texture. The plaza includes astronomy themed inserts, a large circular bench wall, and a new park entry sign. The plaza edges are defined by raised planters to manage grade change and storm water drainage. Additional bike parking will be provided as well.

Future Phase 2: Program and Experience

The JMZ Staff, City of Palo Alto and Friends are considering a future phase 2 addition to the JMZ to further enrich children's experiences with animals, nature and science. In the location and footprint of the outdoor classroom, a future two story building is proposed with a classroom on the first floor and butterfly/insect exhibit on the second floor. The building will have one interior staircase and elevator, second floor walkways overlooking the zoo and Pecan tree canopy, and an exterior stair within loose in the zoo. Possibly the most exciting part of phase 2 is the addition of a tree-fort to the central artificial feature tree in loose in the zoo with play opportunities, small animal exhibits, and the experience of being in the trees!

The massing and material of the future phase 2 building echoes the simple gabled roof form and height of the main exhibit gallery building. Portions of the west, south and east facades will be curtain wall to allow daylight to create a greenhouse experience in the Butterfly exhibit. Standing metal standing seam roofing and exterior cladding will wrap the core spaces on the northern side of the building. The accent color metal standing seam zoo wall will wrap the lower story of the building similar to the wall enclosing the outdoor classroom in phase 1.

The design for phase 2 is currently conceptual as this scope is not funded at this time. The conceptual floor plan, renderings, elevations, zoo site plan, and zoo sections are included at the end of the drawing package for reference and to build excitement for the future build out of phase 2.

Design Approach: Surrounding Site Improvements

In addition to the proposed JMZ Building and Zoo, the proposed design includes reconfiguring the shared-use parking lot and improving the pathways connecting site facilities and the park to the surrounding neighborhoods.

The JMZ design team, the Rinconada Park long range master plan team, and Palo Alto City Staff are working together to reconfigure the parking lot to create safe pedestrian and bicycle pathways through the site, clarify vehicular circulation, provide fire access and maintain the existing parking stall count. The reconfigured shared-use parking lot includes the following improvements:

- Dedicated bike and pedestrian entrance at intersection of Kellogg and Middlefield (separated from vehicular entrance), raised pathway through the parking lot and direct connection to pathways in the park
- Safe pedestrian pathway through parking lot leading to JMZ entry plaza defined by colored concrete
- New, single vehicular entrance mid-block on Middlefield Road and new vehicular entrance onto Hopkins
- Fire truck and bus access through the parking lot with dedicated driveway onto Hopkins (no standard vehicular use)
- Two-way circulation through the parking lot with dedicated drop-off and loading zone near JMZ entrance and park arrival plaza
- Efficient stormwater treatment system: pervious paving, shallow treatment area, and connection to storm drainage line in utility corridor
- 50% shading requirement met by existing and new trees
- No net increase or decrease of parking stall count; Increase number of accessible parking stalls
- Increase in bicycle parking (including racks at the entrance to JMZ and the park); Increase in long-term bicycle storage for staff

We are requesting careful review and collaboration with the City's Transportation department to ensure the intersection of Kellogg, Middlefield and improved vehicular entrance to the parking lot is safe and effective.

The landscape area in front of the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout Building will be reconfigured with the new parking lot edge. The design approach will be to maintain existing mature trees and add new oak trees to further encourage the 'cottage in the park' like setting. An organic concrete path will meander through a native planting landscape connecting the park arrival plaza to the building entrance to the accessible parking stalls. Vehicular access to the existing garage will be maintained along with storm water diversion improvements.

While not included in the scope of the JMZ project, we are collaborating with the Rinconada Park long range master plan team to coordinate the connection of the JMZ promenade experience and park arrival plaza into the rest of Rinconada park - specifically focusing on the integrated concepts of the new play area and the edge of the park along the zoo.

Project Process Update

CAW Architects and the Friends presented to the ARB in January of this year with an earlier design of this project. Based on the thoughtful comments from the board, we revised the design to clarify the site organization, establish a civic presence for the Junior Museum & Zoo, reference the context of the site and create a pedestrian scaled approach from Middlefield Road. We presented this design concept at an ARB study session in March of 2017. The Board was very positive of the revised direction. This submittal package is a further development of the concept presented in March.

The footprint of the proposed zoo design within the Rinconada park boundary has not changed since last presented to the Parks and Recreations Commission in April 2016. At that meeting, the commissioners unanimously provided a vote of support for the project and relationship with the park.

The JMZ design team are continuing to work with the Rinconada Park long range plan team to ensure compatibility between the two design efforts. The environmental review through the CEQA process for both the JMZ project and Rinconada Park long range plan is underway with the following technical studies nearing completion: air quality, cultural resources, transportation and traffic elements, arborist reports, and historic review. The findings of the historic review were that the existing JMZ building does not contribute to the significance of the adjacent Lucie Stern Cultural Center, nor is it eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources, nor the National Register of Historic Places. There is currently a historic review of the site context surrounding Lucie Stern and of the Lou Henry Hoover House underway. The findings of this review will be available prior to the presentation of this project at a Formal ARB hearing. The CEQA document is scheduled to be released to the public in spring of 2017 and go before council for approval by summer of 2017.

This formal submittal will go before the Historic Review Board in May 2017 and Architectural Review Board in June 2017. We are seeking formal review and approval at this time.

RINCONADA PARK
HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATION

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA
[16280]

PREPARED FOR:
DAVID J. POWERS & ASSOCIATES, INC.



PAGE & TURNBULL

imagining change in historic environments through design, research, and technology

JUNE 8 2017

DRAFT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
METHODOLOGY	1
II. CURRENT HISTORIC STATUS	2
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	2
CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES	2
CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE STATUS CODE	2
PALO ALTO HISTORIC INVENTORY	2
HISTORIC RESOUC E EVALUATIONS.....	3
III. RINCONADA PARK DESCRIPTION	4
IV. HISTORIC CONTEXT	23
PALO ALTO HISTORY	23
RINCONADA PARK DEVELOPMENT BY DECADE	26
ARCHITECT / LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT BIOGRAPHIES	41
V. EVALUATION.....	48
CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES	48
INTEGRITY	50
SUMMARY OF EVALUATION.....	52
VI. PROPOSED PROJECT ANALYSIS.....	53
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT	53
PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION	55
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS: JMZ PROJECT.....	58
ANALYSIS OF PROJECT-SPECIFIC IMPACTS UNDER CEQA	62
ANALYSIS OF LONG RANGE PLAN PROGRAM-LEVEL IMPACTS UNDER CEQA	62
CUMULATIVE IMPACTS.....	62
VII. CONCLUSION	64
VIII. REFERENCES CITED.....	65
PUBLISHED WORKS	65
PUBLIC RECORDS	65
NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS	66
INTERNET SOURCES.....	67

I. INTRODUCTION

This Historic Resource Evaluation (HRE) has been prepared at the request of David J. Powers & Associates for Rinconada Park in Palo Alto, California. **(Figure 1).** The official address of the 19-acre multipurpose park is 777 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, California 94303 (APN 003-46-006). The first part of this report provides a reconnaissance survey of all features and buildings in Rinconada Park; outlines an overall history of the park's development; and evaluates the park's features and buildings for eligibility to the California Register as individual resources and/or as a designed historic landscape. In consideration of all designated and identified historic buildings and features, the second part of the report analyzes the potential project-level impacts of the proposed Junior Museum and Zoo (JMZ) project and the program-level impacts of the Rinconada Park Long Range Plan under the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* and pursuant to CEQA.

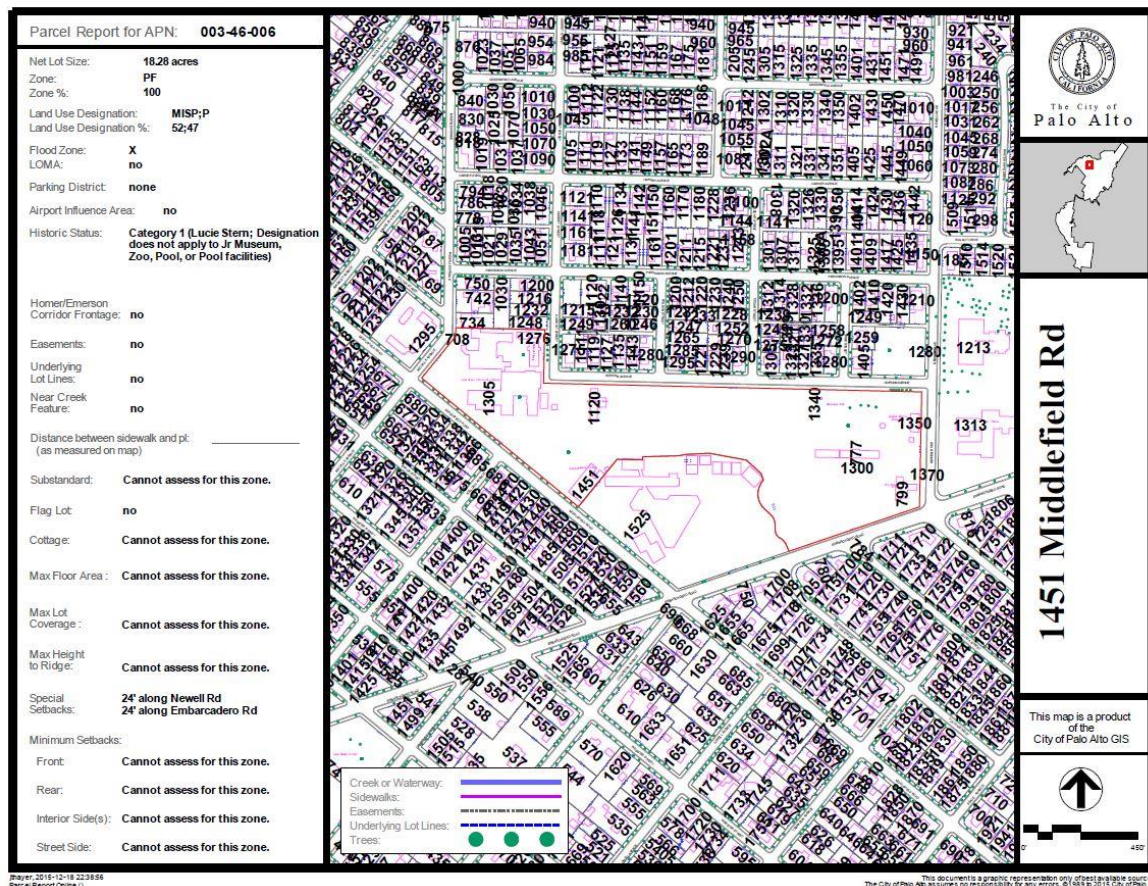


Figure 1. Parcel map of Rinconada Park).
Source: City of Palo Alto Online Parcel Reports, 2016.

METHODOLOGY

Page & Turnbull prepared this report using research collected at various local repositories, including the Palo Alto Public Library, Palo Alto Historical Association, City of Palo Alto Planning and Community Environment Department, Online Archive of California, and various other online sources. Information from Page & Turnbull's Historic Resource Evaluation for the JMZ (July 2016) also informed this report. Page & Turnbull conducted a site visit in April 2017 to review the existing conditions of the property and formulate the descriptions and assessments included in this report. All photographs were taken by Page & Turnbull in April 2017 unless otherwise noted.

II. CURRENT HISTORIC STATUS

The following section examines the national, state, and local historical ratings currently assigned to Rinconada Park.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places (National Register) is the nation's most comprehensive inventory of historic resources. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service and includes buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state, or local level.

Rinconada Park is not currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places individually or as part of a registered historic district.

CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is an inventory of significant architectural, archaeological, and historical resources in the State of California. Resources can be listed in the California Register through a number of methods. State Historical Landmarks and National Register-listed properties are automatically listed in the California Register. Properties can also be nominated to the California Register by local governments, private organizations, or citizens. The evaluative criteria used by the California Register for determining eligibility are closely based on those developed by the National Park Service for the National Register of Historic Places.

Rinconada Park is not currently listed in the California Register of Historical Resources individually or as part of a registered historic district.

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE STATUS CODE

Properties listed by, or under review by, the State of California Office of Historic Preservation are assigned a California Historical Resource Status Code (Status Code) between "1" and "7" to establish their historical significance in relation to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register or NR) or California Register of Historical Resources (California Register or CR). Properties with a Status Code of "1" or "2" are either eligible for listing in the California Register or the National Register, or are already listed in one or both of the registers. Properties assigned Status Codes of "3" or "4" appear to be eligible for listing in either register, but normally require more research to support this rating. Properties assigned a Status Code of "5" have typically been determined to be locally significant or to have contextual importance. Properties with a Status Code of "6" are not eligible for listing in either register. Finally, a Status Code of "7" means that the resource either has not been evaluated for the National Register or the California Register, or needs reevaluation.

Rinconada Park is not listed in the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) database with a status code. The most recent update to the CHRIS database for Santa Clara County that lists the Status Codes was in April 2012.

PALO ALTO HISTORIC INVENTORY

The City of Palo Alto's Historic Inventory lists noteworthy examples of the work of important individual designers and architectural eras and traditions as well as structures whose background is associated with important events in the history of the city, state, or nation. The inventory is organized under the following four Categories:

- **Category 1:** An “Exceptional Building” of pre-eminent national or state importance. These buildings are meritorious works of the best architects, outstanding examples of a specific architectural style, or illustrate stylistic development of architecture in the United States. These buildings have had either no exterior modifications or such minor ones that the overall appearance of the building is in its original character.
- **Category 2:** A “Major Building” of regional importance. These buildings are meritorious works of the best architects, outstanding examples of an architectural style, or illustrate stylistic development of architecture in the state or region. A major building may have some exterior modifications, but the original character is retained.
- **Category 3 or 4:** A “Contributing Building” which is a good local example of an architectural style and relates to the character of a neighborhood grouping in scale, materials, proportion or other factors. A contributing building may have had extensive or permanent changes made to the original design, such as inappropriate additions, extensive removal of architectural details, or wooden facades resurfaced in asbestos or stucco.

The subject parcel, which encompasses all of Rinconada Park, is designated in City of Palo Alto records as a Category 1 property because of the Lucie Stern Community Center. The Category 1 designation does not apply to any other building or facility within the park.

HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATIONS

Page & Turnbull completed a Historic Resource Evaluation for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo in July 2016 and found the building not to be a historic resource.

Garavaglia Architecture completed a Historic Resource Evaluation for Palo Alto Fire Station No. 3 in August 2016 and found the building not to be a historic resource.

Other buildings and features, such as the Girl Scout House, swimming pools and building, tennis courts, and parking lot, have not previously been assessed and will be examined in this report.

III. RINCONADA PARK DESCRIPTION

The following section provides a general description of physical features and relationships that comprise Rinconada Park. The character of the park is expressed by a range of built and natural features, including buildings, swimming pools and tennis courts, playgrounds, vegetation patterns, and numerous small-scale features. These features continue to convey the spatial and functional relationships that define the park. In order to capture the site's features and spatial relationships, the following description employs categories outlined in the National Park Service publication: *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques*. Numbers at the left side of the tables correspond to a site plan that follows the tables.

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

1		Name: Lucie Stern Community Center Address: 1305 Middlefield Road Designer: Birge Clark Date of Construction: 1934-1940 Brief Description: Complex of attached buildings, including a theater, children's theater, and Boy Scout meeting room. The buildings are designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style with stucco and brick cladding, multi-lite steel sash windows, glazed wood doors, and clay tile gable roofs. The mass of the main theater's fly loft extends above the rooflines and features buttresses and blind arch decoration. The buildings are organized around exterior courtyards with outdoor hallways.
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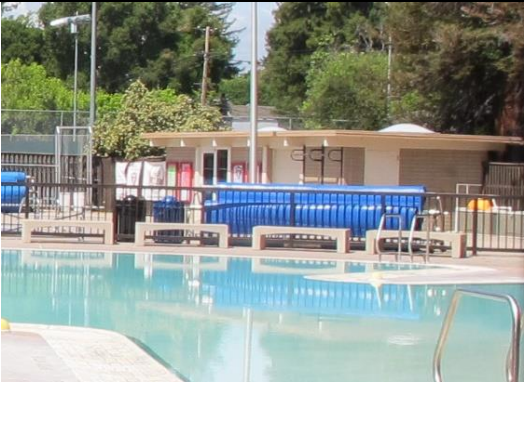
2		Name: Children's Library Address: 1276 Harriet Street Designer: Birge and David Clark Date of Construction: 1940 Brief Description: Rectangular building clad in stucco with brick accents, multi-lite steel sash windows, glazed wood doors, and a clay tile gable roof. Recent additions are located at each end and feature the same materials, though the facades are panelized.
3		Name: Roy A. Ginsburg outdoor children's theatre stage (aka "Magic Castle") Address: 1276 Harriet Street Designer: John Northway Date of Construction: 1993-98 Brief Description: Rectangular-plan, two-story building clad in stucco with two tile-roofed turrets, wrought-iron balconies, multi-light arched windows, and wood doors. Outdoor stage opens to a lawn adjacent to the Secret Garden.
4		Name: Storage Building east of Lucie Stern Community Center Address: 1305 Middlefield Road Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: ca. 1970s Brief Description: Rectangular plan, one story building with stucco cladding, a roll-up metal loading door, awning sash windows, and a hip roof covered with clay tiles.

5		Name: Mechanical enclosure Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: ca. 1998-2002 Brief Description: Stuccoed walls around mechanical equipment, no roof.
6		Name: Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo Address: 1451 Middlefield Road Designer: Dole Ford Thompson, renovations by Kal H. Porter (1968-69) Date of Construction: 1941 Brief Description: One-and-two-story building designed in a vernacular Ranch style. The wood frame building sits on a concrete foundation. The walls are clad in textured stucco. The building is composed of a U-shaped arrangement of two main volumes with central, connecting hyphens. The building features solid and glazed wood doors and fixed and double-hung wood sash windows. Gable and hipped roofs are clad with wood shakes or built-up roofing.
7		Name: Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House Designer: Birge Clark Date of Construction: 1926, addition in 1945 Brief Description: T-shaped building with board-and-batten siding, multi-lite wood sash windows, concrete steps, solid and board-and-batten wood doors, and a cross-gable roof covered with wood shingles. The building also features a stone chimney and a pair of garage doors. Signs next to and above the main entrance read: "Girl Scout House" and "The Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House." The garage portion was constructed on the south side in 1945.

		
8		Name: Large west playground Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: Location: 1957-59; equipment: 1997 Brief Description: Partially fenced-in playground consisting of swing set, zip line/bars, and climbing structure with slides. Ground cover consists of tanbark.

9		Name: Tiny tot playground Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: Location: 1957-59; equipment: 1997 Brief Description: Fenced-in playground consisting of climbing structure with slides, swing set, and rockers on springs.
10		Name: Pump House Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: ca. 1950s Brief Description: Square-plan building with horizontal wood cladding, pair of solid wood doors, and hip roof covered with wood shingles.
11		Name: Shed adjacent to tennis courts Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: Unknown Brief Description: Prefabricated and portable shed with vertical wood siding, solid door, and shed roof.
12		Name: Tennis courts Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: 1934 Brief Description: Six tennis courts grouped into four and two, enclosed by chain link fence. Paved in green and blue with white lines delineating the courts.

		
13	  	Name: Public restroom Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: 1953 Brief Description: L-plan wood frame and concrete block building with concrete block and vertical wood siding, vertical board and solid wood doors, vertical wood entry screens, and cross-gable roof with wood shingles. The former activities room features plate glass windows.

14		Name: Lap pool Address: 777 Embarcadero Road Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: 1938-40 Brief Description: Rectangular lap pool, 14 lanes, 100' x 75', with two diving boards. Enclosed by a wood fence and surrounded by a concrete deck.
15		Name: Children's wading pool Address: 777 Embarcadero Road Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: 1998-99 Brief Description: Cloverleaf-shaped wading pool with fountain features. Replaced the original water tank pool. Enclosed by a wood fence and surrounded by a concrete deck.
16		Name: Pool Equipment Building Designer: Edward Durell Stone Date of Construction: 1968 Brief Description: Rectangular one-story reinforced concrete and concrete block building with glazed doors. The building is capped with a flat roof supported by extended rafter tails. Appears altered compared to original drawings.
17		Name: Pool building (Dressing Rooms) Address: 777 Embarcadero Road Designer: Stedman and Williams Date of Construction: 1957-58 Brief Description: Rectangular plan, one-story building with concrete block cladding, wood framed plate glass windows, glazed wood doors, and a flat roof with extended eaves and rafter tails. Two areas—one at the far west end and another between two enclosed portions—are open to the elements, covered by lattice roofs on joists which are supported by metal poles. The open portion

		between two enclosed portions is screened from the south by a wood fence.
18		Name: Electric substation Designer: Edward Durell Stone Date of Construction: 1968 Brief Description: Rectangular plan building with concrete columns, gypsum board panels, metal pedestrian doors, roll-up metal loading doors, and a deck roof covered with wood shingles.
19		Name: Palo Alto Fire Station No. 3 Address: 799 Embarcadero Road Designer: Morgan Stedman of Stedman, Libby & Gray Date of Construction: 1948 Brief Description: T-plan, one-story building clad in stucco and vertical board-and-batten wood siding. Covered with a flat roof and metal mansard roof. The building features fixed aluminum-framed and wood casement windows.

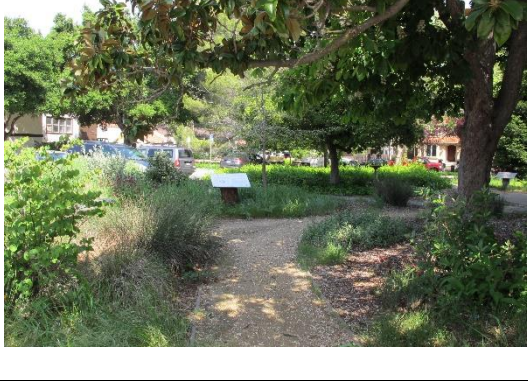
CIRCULATION

20		Name: JMZ parking lot Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: ca. 1940s, additional parking to the east in 1967-69 Brief Description: Paved parking area with painted stalls and concrete parking curbs. Parking area to the north divided by two parallel concrete curbs.
21		Name: Southwest driveway to JMZ parking lot Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: ca. 1940s Brief Description: Paved driveway from Middlefield Road, framed by wood logs and flanked by planted areas.
22		Name: Southeast driveway to JMZ parking lot Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: ca. 1940s Brief Description: Paved driveway from Middlefield Road.
23		Name: Brick walkways west of Lucie Stern Community Center Designer: Unknown (possibly Birge Clark) Date of Construction: ca. 1936-40 Brief Description: Brick walkways paved in a basket weave pattern: two walkways extend from Middlefield and Melville Avenue toward the Lucie Stern Community Center while the sidewalk adjacent to the turnaround is also paved with brick.

24		Name: Turnaround at Lucie Stern Community Center Designer: Unknown (possibly Birge Clark) Date of Construction: 1936-40 Brief Description: Paved U-shaped driveway that extends from Middlefield Road to Melville Avenue and passes the primary entrance to the Lucie Stern Community Center.
25		Name: Paved area and garden west of Girl Scout House Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: 1936 Brief Description: Paved area and garden immediately west (the “front yard”) of the Girl Scout House’s main entrance. Landscaping includes low shrubs and a variety of trees.
26		Name: Central paved walking path loop Designer: Eckbo, Royston, and Williams Date of Construction: 1957-59 Brief Description: Paved walking path loop that extends in a tear drop shape around the main recreation lawn and intersects south of the tennis courts at the public restroom. A triangle of paved walking path also surrounds the tiny tot playground.

27		Name: Paved walking path at southeast park area Designer: Eckbo, Royston, and Williams Date of Construction: 1957-59 Brief Description: Paved walking path that extends in a parabola shape with two street entrances off Embarcadero Road, and intersects with walking path offshoots in front of the pool building.
28		Name: Parking lot north of tennis courts Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: 1930s Brief Description: Paved parking lot off Hopkins Avenue, separated from the tennis courts by a tall hedge.
29		Name: Multi-use bowl Designer: Eckbo, Royston, and Williams Date of Construction: 1957-59 Brief Description: Roughly four-cornered, amoeba-shaped paved area framed by a concrete curb and accessed from the north by a paved walking path near the public restroom.

VEGETATION

30		Name: Demonstration Garden Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: Unknown Brief Description: Garden to the west of the Girl Scout House includes a protected coast live oak and several ruby horse chestnut trees.
31		Name: Picnic/landscaped area west of JMZ parking lot Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: ca. 1940s Brief Description: Small picnic area between the JMZ parking lot and driveways, featuring one picnic table and an arched trellis surrounded by ivy and various types of trees. Plantings likely updated over time.
32		Name: Landscaped area southwest of JMZ parking lot Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: ca. 1940s Brief Description: Area between southwest driveway to JMZ parking lot and Middlefield Road, landscaped with a variety of shrubs, flowering trees, and pine trees. Plantings likely updated over time.
33		Name: South courtyard of Lucie Stern Community Center Designer: Birge Clark Date of Construction: 1936-40 Brief Description: Lawn, brick steps and site wall, and plantings including wisteria. Enclosed to the south by a tall hedge and only accessed via the exterior galleries of the building's wings. Plantings likely updated over time.

34		Name: West courtyard of Lucie Stern Community Center Designer: Birge Clark Date of Construction: 1936-40 Brief Description: Lawn, brick walkways with basket weave pattern, wood benches, center quatrefoil-shaped planter, and various plantings including wisteria. Framed on north and south by exterior galleries of the building's wings. Plantings likely updated over time.
35		Name: Lawn to the west of Lucie Stern Community Center Designer: Birge Clark Date of Construction: 1936-40 Brief Description: Open lawn area framed by walkway and driveway. Two brick pathways cross the lawn. There are a number of mature trees. Plantings likely updated over time.
36		Name: The Secret Garden Designer: Birge Clark Date of Construction: 1936-40 Brief Description: Located between the Children's Theatre and the Children's Library, the Secret Garden is enclosed by a tall brick wall. It features lawn, rows of sycamore trees, blossoming shrubs, wood benches, walking paths, and garden follies. Plantings likely updated over time.

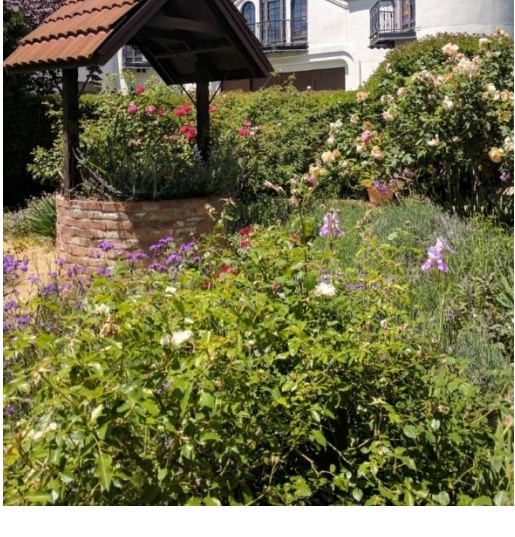
37		Name: Recreation Field Designer: N/A; Renovation by Eckbo, Royston, and Williams Date of Construction: 1920s; renovation in 1957-59 Brief Description: Open multi-use lawn framed by walkways and trees.
38		Name: Landscaping by gazebo Designer: Architect Edward Durell Stone; landscape architect Edward Durell Stone, Jr & Associates; landscape architect Jack C. Stafford Date of Construction: 1968 Brief Description: Landscape consists of lawn, trees, ground cover, and concrete paths (altered from original red rock paths).
39		Name: “The Magic Forest” redwood grove Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: 1934 Brief Description: Grove of redwood trees, ground cover, and wood benches north of the swimming pool complex.

40		Name: Southeast lawn area Designer: Eckbo, Royston, and Williams Date of Construction: 1957-59 Brief Description: Lawn and trees with metal benches along paths.
41		Name: Oak tree and stone wall Designer: Eckbo, Royston, and Williams Date of Construction: 1957-59 Brief Description: Prominent oak tree framed by a curving low stone wall adjacent to walking path and east of multi-use bowl.

SMALL-SCALE FEATURES

42		Name: Brick wall west of Children's Theater Designer: Birge Clark Date of Construction: 1936-40 Brief Description: Brick wall west of the Children's Theater, which features an intricate brick-laid pattern at the top.
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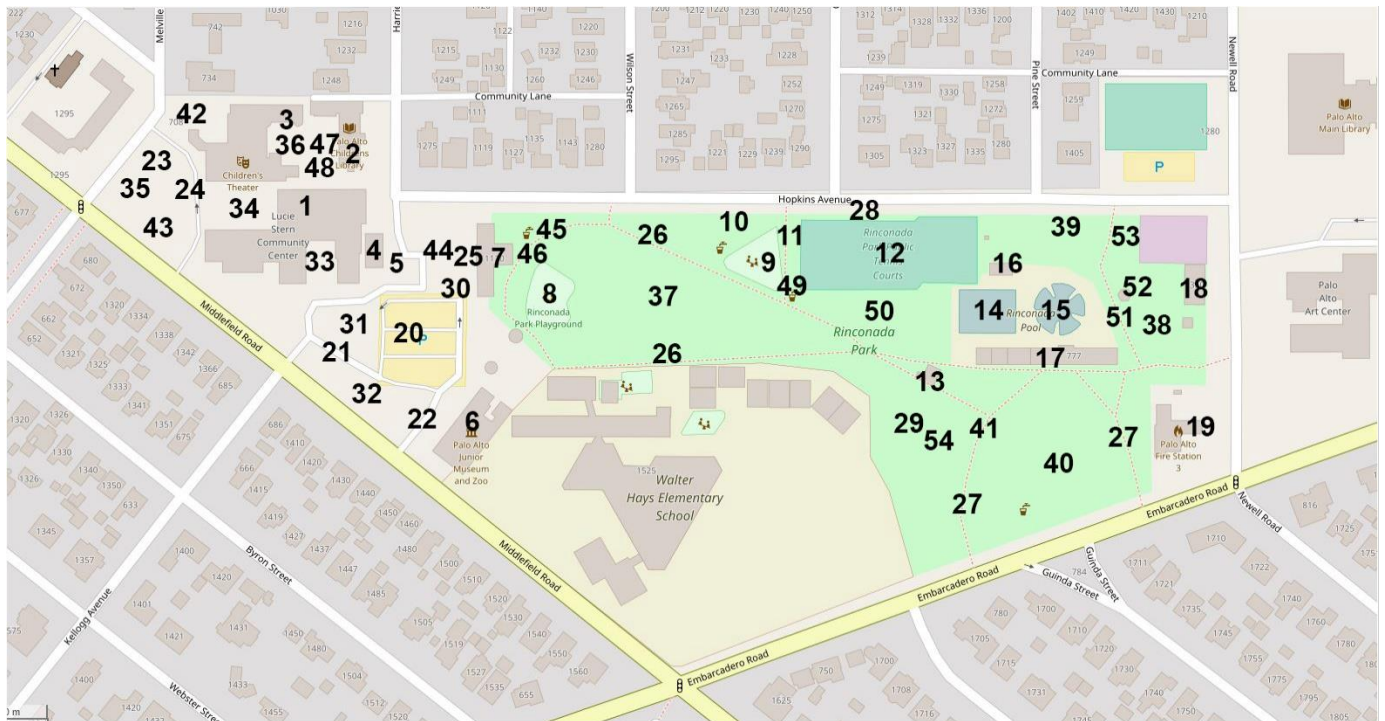
43		Name: “Movement IV” sculpture Designer: Steven Jay Rand Date of Construction: 1977 Brief Description: Blue metal intersecting cube sculpture on a cylindrical concrete podium.
44		Name: Bird bath Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: 1925 Brief Description: Concrete bird bath located west of the Girl Scout House. The inscription reads: “In memorium Edward Philip Sheridan, Scout, 1886 – 1925.”
45		Name: Sequoia picnic area Designer: Eckbo, Royston, and Williams Date of Construction: 1957-59 Brief Description: Paved and partially fenced-in area east of the Girl Scout House and north of the playground, which includes wood tables and benches on metal supports and barbeque grills.
46		Name: Drinking fountain Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: Unknown Brief Description: Concrete drinking fountain located immediately east of the Girl Scout House. The fountain is covered with a pebble dash coating and has one spigot.

47		Name: Well in the Secret Garden Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: Unknown Brief Description: Garden folly made of a brick base, wood posts, and a gable roof covered with clay tiles.
48		Name: Alice in Wonderland Sculpture Designer: Susan Dannenfelser, Dannenbeck Studios Date of Construction: 2007 Brief Description: Ceramic sculpture of a tree trunk on a brick base. The base includes the artist and the inscription: “ ‘She found herself at last in the beautiful garden, among the bright flower-beds and the cool fountains’ – Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland.”
49		Name: Drinking fountain Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: Unknown Brief Description: Concrete water fountain located between small playground and tennis courts. The fountain is covered with pebble dash coating and tile decoration. Two levels of spigots.
50		Name: Picnic tables and barbeque grills Designer: Unknown Date of Construction: ca. 1998-2002 Brief Description: Four circular concrete paving areas with wood and metal picnic tables and barbeque grills.

51		Name: Lamps at gazebo area Designer: Edward Durell Stone, Edward Durell Stone, Jr. & Associates (landscape), Jack C. Stafford (landscape) Date of Construction: 1968 Brief Description: Prescolite plexiglass spheres on metal posts
52		Name: Gazebo Designer: Edward Durell Stone Date of Construction: 1968 Brief Description: Six-sided wood frame gazebo with shake roof. Within the gazebo at center is a six-sided wood bench with a planter in the middle.
53		Name: Shuffleboard and horseshoe courts Architect: Edward Durell Stone Date of Construction: 1968 Brief Description: Three concrete shuffleboard courts and one horseshoe pit framed by wood benches.
54		Name: Multi-use bowl light fixtures Designer: Eckbo, Royston, and Williams Date of Construction: 1957-59 Brief Description: Lighting around the multi-use bowl consists of five galvanized pipes supporting a metal "Shelfex" cylinder with heavy duty fiberglass within.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, TOPOGRAPHY, VIEWS & VISTAS

The park is organized with the Lucie Stern Community Center, JMZ, Girl Scout House, and paved parking lots to the west; a large open field framed by picnic areas and playgrounds at center; and the tennis courts, swimming pool complex, and more lawn to the east. Topography is generally flat, though some landscaped areas have been built up to form small hills and recessions. Views and vistas generally look to the surrounding streets and residential neighborhood, as well as to the back of the adjacent Walter Hays School, classroom trailers, and playground.



IV. HISTORIC CONTEXT

PALO ALTO HISTORY

The earliest known settlement of the Palo Alto area was by the Ohlone people. The region was colonized by Gaspar de Portola in 1769 as part of Alto California. The Spanish and Mexican governments carved the area into large ranchos, and the land that would become Palo Alto belonged to several, including Rancho Corte Madera, Rancho Pastoria de las Borregas, Rancho Rincon de San Francisquito, and Rancho Riconada del Arroyo de San Francisquito.¹ The subject property at Rinconada Park was located on what was formerly Rancho Riconada del Arroyo de San Francisquito, and, at more than 2,200 acres, covered all of the original Palo Alto town site. The northern and eastern boundaries were distinguished by San Francisquito Creek, while the western boundary was located near El Camino Real and the southern boundary paralleled Embarcadero Road farther south.² These land grants were honored in the cession of California to the United States, but parcels were subdivided and sold throughout the nineteenth century.

The current city of Palo Alto contains the former township of Mayfield. In 1882, railroad magnate and California politician Leland Stanford purchased 1,000 acres adjacent to Mayfield to add to his larger estate. Stanford's vast holdings became known as the Palo Alto Stock Farm. The Stanfords' teenage son died in 1884, leading the couple to create a university in his honor. Contrary to contemporary institutions, the Stanfords wanted a co-educational and non-denominational university.³ On March 9, 1885, the university was founded through an endowment act by the California Assembly and Senate. Using the Stock Farm land, they established Stanford University

In 1886, Stanford went to Mayfield where he was interested in founding his university since the school needed a nearby service town to support its operations. However, the Stanfords required alcohol to be banned from the town because they believed that the university's mission and community would be negatively impacted by any nearby presence of alcohol.⁴ With 13 popular saloons then operating in Mayfield, the town eventually rejected the Stanfords' request. Seeking an alternative, Stanford decided in 1894 to found the town of Palo Alto with aid from his friend Timothy Hopkins of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Hopkins purchased and subdivided 740 acres of private land.⁵ Known as both the Hopkins Tract and University Park, it was bounded by the San Francisquito Creek to the north and the railroad tracks and Stanford University campus to the south (**Figure 38**). The subject property of Rinconada Park was located at the northern edge of the first platted portion of Palo Alto.

¹ "Palo Alto, California," Wikipedia, accessed December 22, 2014, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palo_Alto,_California#cite_note-12.

² Ward Winslow and the Palo Alto Historical Association, *Palo Alto: A Centennial History* (Palo Alto Historical Association: Palo Alto, CA, 1993), 16-17.

³ "History of Stanford," Stanford University, accessed December 22, 2014, <http://www.stanford.edu/about/history/>.

⁴ "A Flash History of Palo Alto," Quora, accessed December 22, 2014, <http://www.quora.com/How-is-the-historical-city-Mayfield-CA-related-to-Palo-Alto-CA>

⁵ "Comprehensive Plan," City of Palo Alto, section L-3.

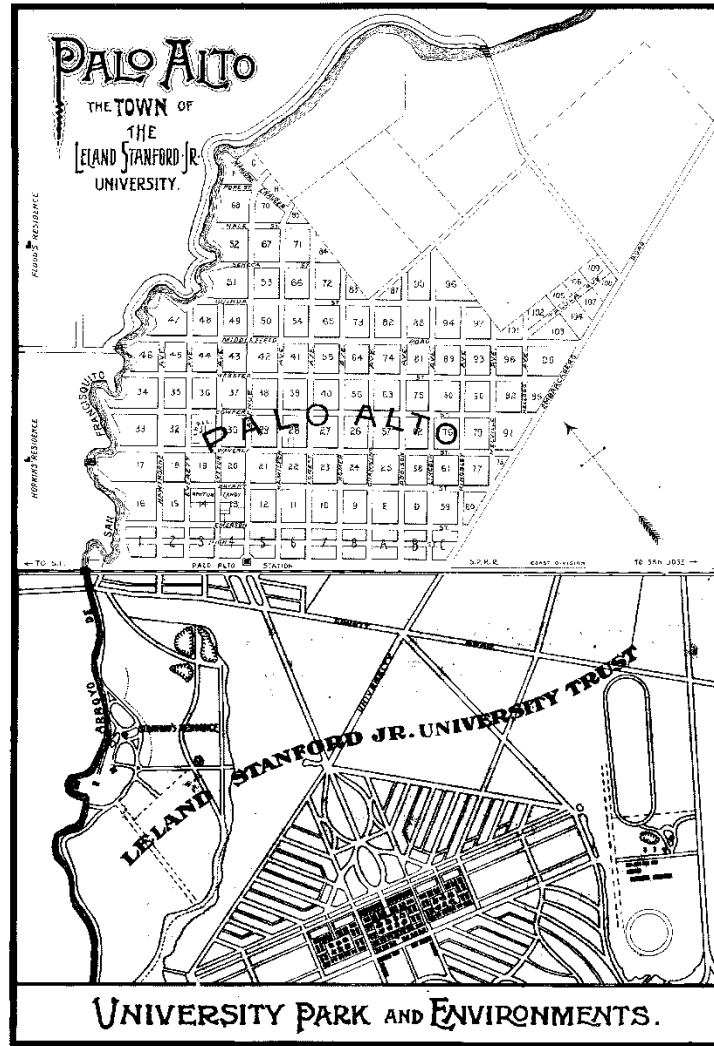


Figure 2. Map of the original town of Palo Alto.

Source: Branner Earth Sciences Library and Map Collections, Stanford University.

Palo Alto was a temperance town where no alcohol could be served. A new train stop was created along University Avenue and the new town flourished serving the university. Palo Alto grew to be much more prosperous than its southeastern neighbor Mayfield. Many people employed at Stanford University chose to move there, and it was considered the safer and more desirable alternative of the two towns.⁶ The residents were mostly middle and working class, with a pocket of University professors clustered in the neighborhood deemed Professorville. The development of a local streetcar in 1906 and the interurban railway to San Jose in 1910 facilitated access to jobs outside the city and to the University, encouraging more people to move to Palo Alto.⁷ In reaction to the decline of Mayfield, its residents voted to become a “dry” town in 1904, with sole exception of allowing the Mayfield Brewery to continue. However, the town was plagued by financial issues and could not compete with Palo Alto’s growth. In July 1925, Mayfield was officially annexed and consolidated into the city of Palo Alto.⁸

⁶ Matt Bowling, “The Meeting on the Corner: The Beginning of Mayfield’s End,” Palo Alto History.com, website accessed 11 June 2013 from: <http://www.paloaltohistory.com/the-beginning-of-mayfields-end.php>.

⁷ Michael Corbett and Denise Bradley, “Palo Alto Historic Survey Update: Final Survey Report,” Dames & Moore, 1-4.

⁸ “A Flash History of Palo Alto,” Quora.

Palo Alto was one of the first California cities to establish a City Planning Commission (CPC). In 1917, zoning matters were tasked to this advisory commission in order to control development and design. Regulations on signage, public landscaping and lighting, and appropriateness within residential areas fell under the purview of the CPC. From this early period, Palo Alto has maintained control over the built environment, which has resulted its relatively low density and consistent aesthetic. However, the zoning controls in the early part of the twentieth century played a part in the racial segregation of the city and the exclusion of certain groups from residential areas. Several neighborhoods were created with race covenants regarding home ownership and occupation, until this practice was ruled unconstitutional in 1948.⁹ The academic nature of the town prevented factories or other big industries from settling in Palo Alto, limiting the range of people who would populate the area.

Like the rest of the nation, Palo Alto suffered through the Great Depression in the 1930s and did not grow substantially. World War II brought an influx of military personnel and their families to the Peninsula. When the war ended, Palo Alto saw rapid growth. Many families who had been stationed on the Peninsula by the military or who worked in associated industries chose to stay, and the baby boom began. Palo Alto's population more than doubled from 16,774 in 1940 to 33,753 in 1953.¹⁰ Stanford University was also a steady attraction for residents and development in the city. The city center greatly expanded in the late 1940s and 1950s (**Figure 39**), gathering parcels that would house new offices and light industrial uses and lead the city away from its "college town" reputation.¹¹

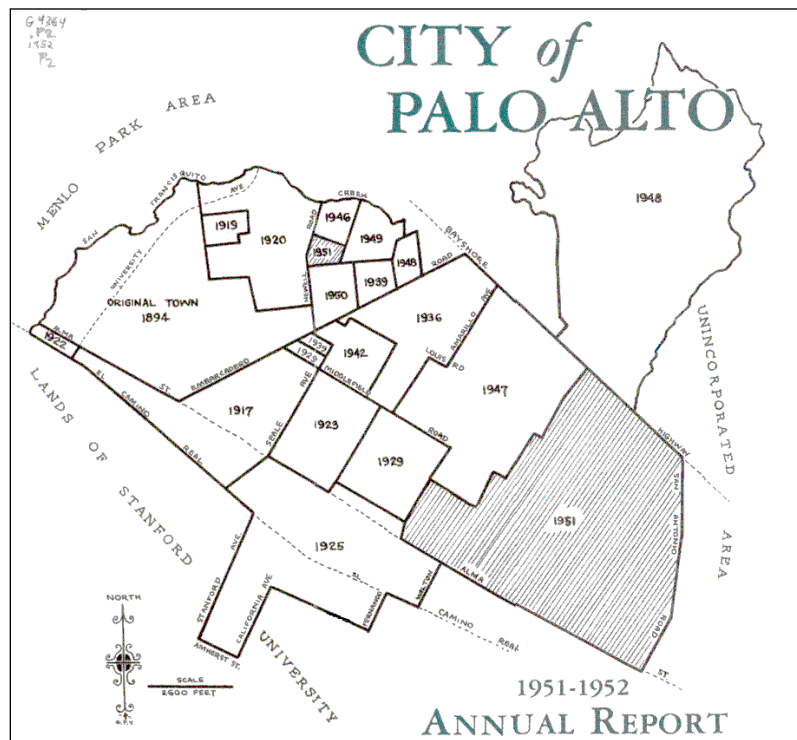


Figure 3. The expansion of Palo Alto from 1894 to 1952.

Source: Branner Earth Sciences Library and Map Collections, Stanford University.

⁹ Corbett and Bradley, "Palo Alto Historic Survey Update," 1-7.

¹⁰ "Depression, War, and the Population Boom," Palo Alto Medical Foundation- Sutter Health, website accessed 11 June 2013 from: <http://www.pamf.org/about/pamfhistory/depression.html>.

¹¹ "Comprehensive Plan," section L-4.

Palo Alto annexed a vast area of mostly undeveloped land between 1959 and 1968. This area, west of the Foothill Expressway, has remained protected open space. Small annexations continued into the 1970s, contributing to the discontinuous footprint of the city today. Palo Alto remains closely tied to Stanford University; it is the largest employer in the city. The technology industry dominates other sectors of business, as is the case with most cities within Silicon Valley. Palo Alto consciously maintains its high proportion of open space to development and the suburban feeling and scale of its architecture.

RINCONADA PARK DEVELOPMENT BY DECADE

Rinconada Park has developed into its current form over a period of over 95 years, with improvements that reflect a variety of civic and park design influences.

1890s-1900s

Prior to development of a city recreation area, the location that is now Rinconada Park was used as the city's first waterworks and power plant (**Figure 4**). The waterworks was established in 1897 and replaced the area's early collection of wells, tanks, and distribution pipes. An electricity-generating unit in the water plant was installed in 1914. The pumping station and electric light works and the powerhouse were photographed around the turn of the twentieth century.

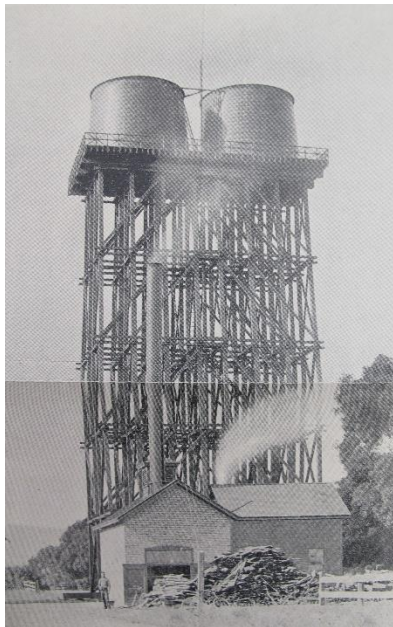


Figure 4: Water tower at the waterworks and power plant.
Source: "Palo Alto Water Works and Sewers," *Live Oak*, 22 September 1897.

The 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance map showed that Talula Avenue bisected the area between Embarcadero Road and Hopkins Avenue that would become Rinconada Park.

1910s-1920s

The cooling pool of the power plant was converted into a public swimming pool ca. 1918 (**Figure 5**). The pool was exceedingly popular with both local residents and out-of-town tourists. Local papers described the overcrowded pool scene and the adjacent "public automobile campground" favored by weekend out-of-towners. Though some pool-goers chose to camp in their cars, most visitors simply came for the day to enjoy a swim and a picnic.

The pool and picnic grounds were sold by the University Realty Company to the City of Palo Alto in 1922 in exchange for a property at University Avenue and Waverly Street.¹² The park was the second established in Palo Alto after El Camino Park, adjacent to El Camino Real and Sand Hill Road, which was acquired from Stanford University in 1914.

At the time of the acquisition, the power plant and waterworks structures were still present on the site.¹³ The pool's popularity and the associated automobile camping culture continued to grow. The *Daily Palo Alto Times* reported: "Automobile parties from near and far may be found camped for a day or a week or even longer in the broad fields surrounding the pool."¹⁴ Official city programming such as swim classes also attracted visitors to the public pool. Very quickly it became necessary to charge admission fees to decrease attendance, and plans for a second pool were discussed.¹⁵ A ten cent admission was charged, and reserved hours were established for women and children only.¹⁶

In 1924, the City sponsored a public contest to decide upon an official park name for the popular "Waterworks Park." The winning submission came from Mrs. Marion Star Alderton, who proposed "Rinconada Park."¹⁷ *Rinconada*, meaning "little corner" in Spanish, was accepted as an appropriate name. The name was taken from Rancho Rinconada del Arroyo de San Franciscuito, the Spanish land grant that covered part of present-day Palo Alto.¹⁸

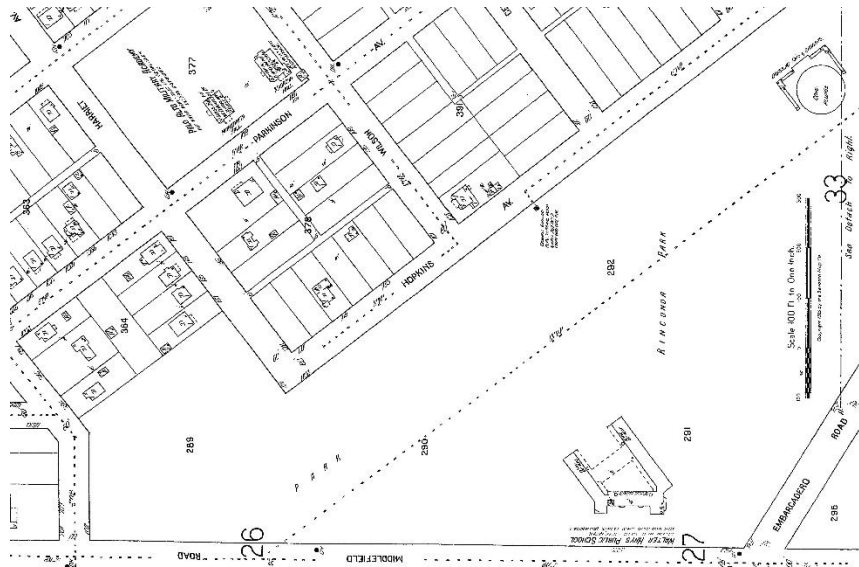


Figure 5: 1924 Sanborn Fire insurance map showing Walter Hays School and concrete plunge surrounded on three sides with dressing rooms/showers. Source: San Francisco Public Library.

With the new name decided, the City pushed forward development plans that included six tennis courts, three baseball diamonds, and a football field. Plans were also announced to convert the

¹² Ward Winslow and the Palo Alto Historical Association, *Palo Alto: A Centennial History* (Palo Alto: Palo Alto Historical Association, 1993), 47.

¹³ Bobbie Riedel, "Happy Birthday, Rinconada Park! Let's Celebrate!" *Lucie Stern Community Center Neighbors News*, Summer 1997, vol. 1 no. 1.

¹⁴ "Palo Alto's Great Summer Playground," *Daily Palo Alto Times*, (July 15, 1922).

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ "Restrictions on Swimming Pool Enacted," *Palo Alto Times*, (August 23, 1923).

¹⁷ "Balloting Begins Tonight in City's Park Name Contest," *Palo Alto Times*, (February 29, 1924).

¹⁸ "Rinconada Park," City of Palo Alto.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lou_Henry_Hoover<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=118&TargetID=14>

swimming pool into a children's wading pool and to construct a deeper, larger tank for advanced swimmers.¹⁹ The estimated cost of development was \$72,330, and the estimated cost of maintenance was \$9,525 a year.²⁰ A redwood grove on the park grounds on Hopkins Street, adjacent to the north side of the swimming pool complex, was informally named "The Magic Forest" by Edith Ellery Patton, principal of the Walter Hays School adjacent to the Rinconada Park grounds.

Because bond measures to finance the development of the park were defeated, the full 1924 development plan appears to have gone unfinished. Despite delays and cuts to the extensive development plan, four tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and a children's playground were constructed.

Funding for the log cabin-style Girl Scout House was provided in 1922 by Lou Henry Hoover and two other board members of the Palo Alto Girl Scout chapter (**Figure 6**). Hoover established the first West Coast troop in Palo Alto and served as president of Girl Scouts of the USA from 1922 to 1925 and again from 1935 to 1937. According to the Girl Scouts of Palo Alto:

Lou Henry Hoover, the wife of President Herbert Hoover, had been active in Girl Scouts on the East Coast and was the president of the National Council of Girl Scouts. She grew up in California, went to San Jose State University (then known as the San Jose Normal School) and then studied geology at Stanford University, where she met her husband. She met Juliette Gordon Low, who founded the Girl Scouts of America, at the end of World War I. When her husband moved the family to Washington D.C., Hoover started her own troop of scouts, which included both white and African American girls — a rare occurrence at that time.

Her historical files reveal that she was committed to the changing roles of women and girls and the opportunities the movement provides. This desire to provide expanded opportunities for young women everywhere led her to establish the Girl Scout movement in the western part of the United States — starting in Palo Alto. After her husband's presidency concluded, Hoover's family moved back to California, and she brought the Girl Scouts with her. In later years, as she continued in her devotion to scouting, she went on to serve as President of Girl Scouts USA.²¹

The Girl Scout House was completed in 1925, following designs by prolific Palo Alto architect Birge Clark. Reputedly, local craftsman and laborers donated their skills to help build the structure. After four years from concept to completion, Lou Hoover dedicated the building in June 1926 at its original location near Melville Avenue where the Children's Theater exists today.²² The building was named the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House after the former First Lady who was its benefactor. The building is the oldest active scout meeting house in the country.²³

Also in 1925, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom donated the Children's Peace Fountain, designed by Robert Paine and placed near Middlefield Road, together with a grove

¹⁹ "Park Plan Approved by Commission," *Palo Alto Times*, (March 5, 1924).

²⁰ "City Engineer Lists Items of Expense in Project," source unknown, likely *Palo Alto Times*, (May 20, 1924).

²¹ Girl Scouts of Palo Alto, "History: First in the West," website accessed on 16 May 2017 from: <http://www.girlscoutsofpaloalto.org/>

²² "First Lady Biography: Lou Hoover," National First Ladies Library, website accessed on 2 May 2017 from: <http://www.firstladies.org/biographies/firstladies.aspx?biography=32>

²³ "Lou Henry Hoover House," Girl Scouts of Northern California, website accessed on 2 May 2017 from: <https://www.gsnorcal.org/en/rental-properties/properties/lou-henry-hoover-house.html>

of walnut trees and a lawn (**Figure 7**). The grove was described as an oval about 125 feet in length, incorporating two oak trees.²⁴ The fountain was installed in late 1926 but is no longer extant.



Figure 6: Lou Henry Hoover as national president of the Girl Scouts of the USA, 1925.
Source: National Archives & Records Administration.



Figure 7: Rendering of Children's Peace Fountain, which was installed in 1926.
Source: "Peace Fountain Dedicated, Children Participate in Park Program, Mayor Accepts Gift for City," *Palo Alto Times*, 30 October 1926.

1930s

In 1932, one hundred flowering cherry trees were planted in the park. The *San Jose Mercury-Herald* reported, "Soil taken from the famous Washington grove of cherry trees and sent to Palo Alto by President Hoover was scattered by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts at the base of each tree in the new grove."²⁵

In the early 1930s, Lucie Stern (1871-1946), widow of Louis Stern who was a nephew of Levi Strauss, and her daughter Ruth gifted the city with money to build what would be the Lucie Stern Community Center. Lucie's donation was for a community theater, a children's theater, and a children's library. Ruth's donation was applied to the development of an administrative wing and a large swimming pool at the park.²⁶

The theater was the first part of the Lucie Stern Community Center to be completed in 1934 following designs by Birge Clark. It appears as though master plan development of the park re-gained momentum in 1934 following a donation from the Garden Club of Palo Alto.²⁷ Blueprints by H. E. Dekker were produced, titled "General Plan of Recreational Facilities and Beautification of Available Area in Rinconada Park" (**Figure 8**). These plans, dated February 5, 1934, do not appear to have been fully implemented. The "sunken garden" bowling green planned on Middlefield Road between Melville Avenue and the Walter Hays School is known to have been eliminated. The *Palo Alto Times* reported park advancements, including a second wing added to the Civic Theatre; two six-foot paths laid out around the park, one from the swimming pool to the theater and the other branching off to Middlefield Road; about 150 cherry trees transplanted from their original location to border the

²⁴ "Paine's Design Is Adopted for Peace Fountain," *Palo Alto Times*, (March 12, 1925).

²⁵ "Palo Alto Sets Out 100 Trees," *San Jose Mercury-Herald*, (February 22, 1932).

²⁶ "Rinconada Park," City of Palo Alto.

²⁷ "Club Provides Fund for Park Master Plan," *Palo Alto Times*, (January 23, 1934).

paths; ground leveled for a volleyball court; a picnic area in the redwood grove; and a Community House proposed.²⁸

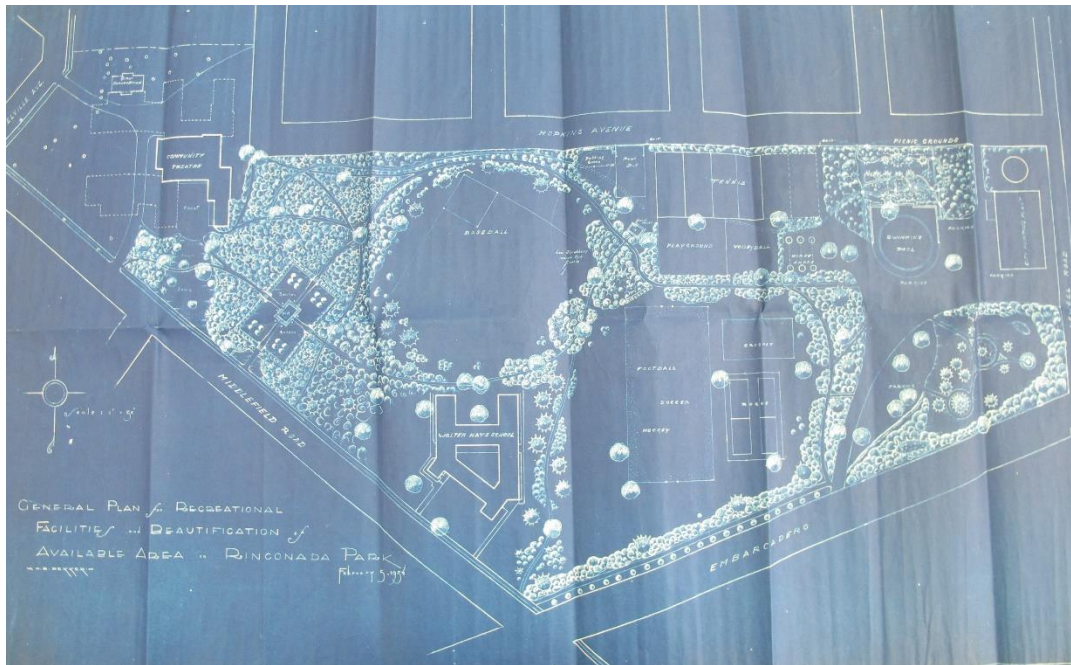


Figure 8: “General Plan for Recreational Facilities and Beautification of Available Area in Rinconada Park,” February 5, 1934. The site plan shows existing Girl Scout House, Community Theater, Walter Hays School, four tennis courts, baseball diamond, playground, and swimming pool, along with other park features that were not all implemented.

Source: City of Palo Alto.



Figure 9: Swimming pool in the 1930s, prior to construction of second pool.

Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.

²⁸ “Work Is Progressing Rapidly in Rinconada Park Development,” *Palo Alto Times*, (February 2, 1934).



Figure 10: Rinconada Park tennis courts, ca. 1930s.
Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.

The Girl Scout house was moved in 1936 to its present location to make room for Children's Theatre (**Figure 11**).



Figure 11: Girl Scout House behind the Girl Scout "Star Wagon," 4 May 1939.
Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.

From 1938-40, the swimming pool was converted to a children's wading pool, and a long-awaited 75 by 100-foot lap pool was constructed. Between 30 and 40 Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers were reportedly engaged on the job.²⁹ The new adult pool, completed at a cost of \$25,000, and funded by Ruth Stern, was dedicated as the Lucie Stern Pool.³⁰ The new pool and the converted children's pool were proclaimed to be the finest swimming facilities on the Peninsula.³¹

1940s

Construction of the Spanish Colonial Revival style Lucie Stern Community Center was completed in 1940, and included the main theater, Boy Scout headquarters, Children's Theater, and the Children's Library (**Figure 12– Figure 13**). The library is the oldest freestanding children's library in the

²⁹ "Work Starts on Adult Pool at Rinconada," no source, (April 12, 1939).

³⁰ *The Tall Tree* (a Palo Alto Historical Association publication), vol. 21, no. 1. (September 1997)

³¹ "\$25,000 Swimming Pool Will Be Completed May 4 (For Next Heat Wave)," no source, (April 13, 1940).

country, and was designed by Birge and David Clark in the Spanish Colonial Revival style to match the Lucie Stern Community Center. One of the unique architectural features was a fireplace tiled with scenes from fairytales. Behind the library and abutting the rear of the Community Center, a “Secret Garden” was designed within tall brick walls.³²



Figure 12: Lucie Stern Community Center, ca. 1939. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.



Figure 13: Children's Library, 1940. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.

A February 1941 Palo Alto Department of Public Works site plan titled “Physical Layout Rinconada Park” showed the completed Community Center and Children’s Library, a parking area with flag pole, the Girl Scout House in its current location, and baseball field at center with a proposed location for a museum overlapping with the baseball diamond (**Figure 14**). To the east, the park included a small pump building in its current location, a field house, tennis courts with an adjacent playground and game area, two swimming pools, and a parking area and driveway among open space.

³² “Children’s Library,” City of Palo Alto. Website accessed 2 May 2017 from: <http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/lib/branches/childrens.asp>

At the far east, adjacent to Newell Road, was the gas center, power plant, and well. The Walter Hays School property extended farther than it does today (**Figure 15**).

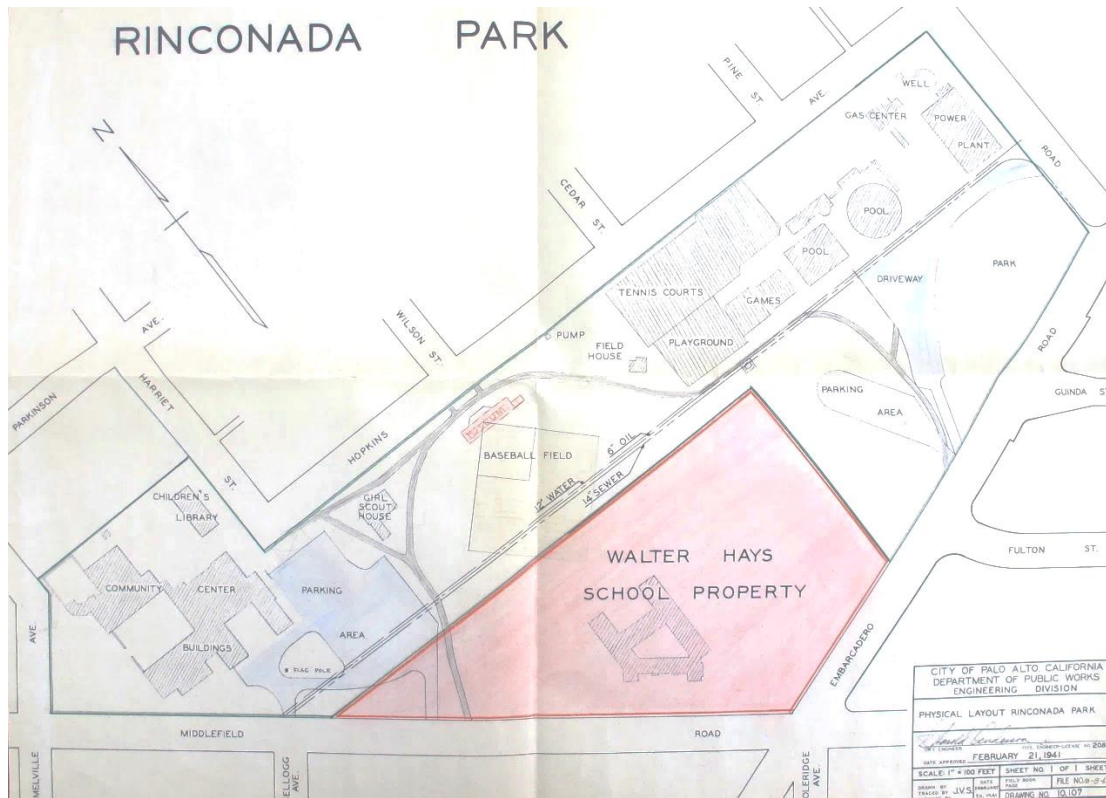


Figure 14: Palo Alto Department of Public Works site plan of “Physical Layout Rinconada Park,” 21 February 1941.

Source: City of Palo Alto.



Figure 15: Aerial view of Rinconada Park in 1941, looking southeast. Tennis courts, swimming pools, grassy picnic area, and parking lot are visible.

Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.

In 1941, a gift of \$10,000 was made by the local Margaret Frost Foundation to fund construction of a new facility for the Palo Alto Junior Museum (**Figure 16 – Figure 17**). The City of Palo Alto offered a portion of land in Rinconada Park, and the museum found a permanent home. Almost immediately after the building's opening, a \$12,000 grant was awarded to the Museum by the philanthropic Columbia Foundation of San Francisco to build a new science wing.



Figure 16: Construction photos for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.



Figure 17. Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building, 1944. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.

Throughout the 1940s, various park improvements were also made, including the addition of park benches purchased from the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1941, which were placed around the swimming pools.³³ The Girl Scout House received an addition in 1945 on the south side of the building.³⁴ The basketball court and horseshoe court were repaired in 1947, and the adult pool was renovated in 1948.^{35 36}

³³ "City to Install Outdoor Benches," no source, (May 7, 1941).

³⁴ Palo Alto Architectural Review Board report, (January 19, 2017).

³⁵ "City Council votes \$765 for cage, 'shoe courts,'" unknown source, (February 11, 1947).

³⁶ Palo Alto Historical Association files.

Also in 1948, the fire station at 799 Embarcadero Road was constructed (**Figure 18**). It was designed by architect Morgan Stedman of Stedman, Libby & Gray, and was the third station constructed in Palo Alto, following one in downtown Palo Alto and a second in Mayfield.^{37 38}



Figure 18: Fire Station No. 3, ca. 1950.
Source: Andrew Christensen, Jr., Palo Alto Historical Association.

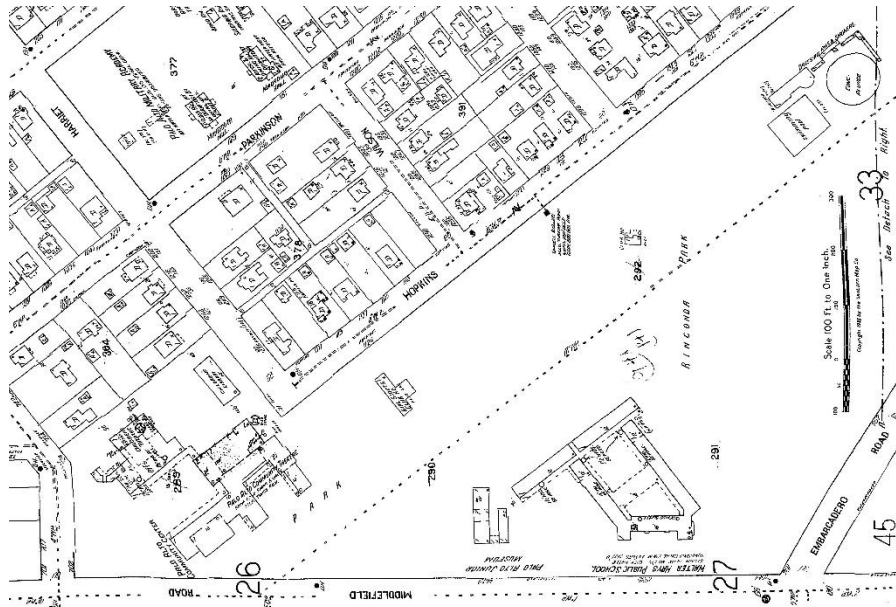


Figure 19: 1949 Sanborn Fire Insurance map showing, from west to east, Lucie Stern Community Center, Girl Scout House, Junior Museum, Walter Hays School, a small clubhouse, swimming pool, and concrete plunge with dressing rooms.
Source: San Francisco Public Library.

³⁷ Garavaglia Architecture, “799 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA Historic Resource Evaluation-Draft,” (August 1, 2016) p.21.

³⁸ Note: the fire station has been altered in a number of ways, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s, which are outlined in detail in Garavaglia’s Historic Resource Evaluation report.

1950s

Additional park improvements were made through the 1950s. An activities house to store recreational sports gear was constructed in 1953 (**Figure 20**).³⁹

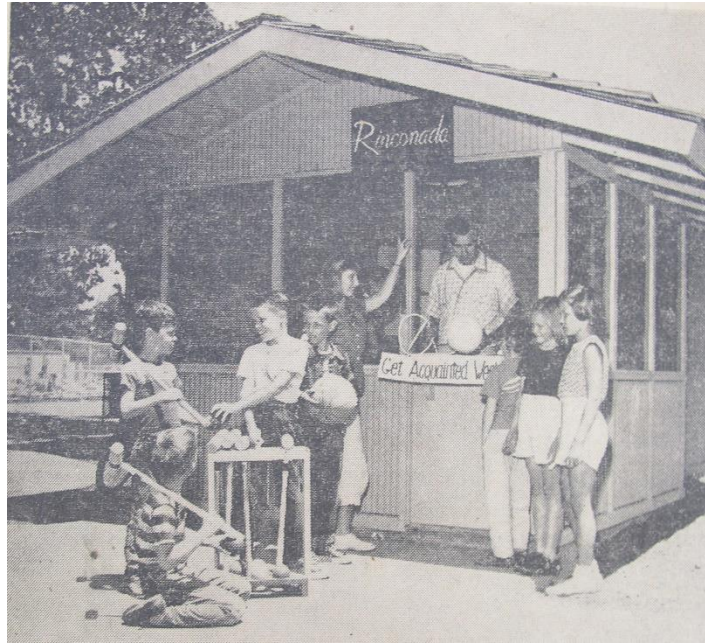


Figure 20: Activities house/public restroom building.
Source: "Open for Business," *Palo Alto Times*, 22 June 1953.



Figure 21: Two swimming pools and previous bath house.
Source: Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, *Pictorial Map of Palo Alto and the San Francisco Peninsula*, ca. 1955.

Plans were produced in 1957 by the landscape architecture firm Eckbo, Royston and Williams of San Francisco to modernize the park (**Figure 22**). This site plan is generally what is in place today. Their plans called for eliminating the central parking area and putting a paved multi-use area in its place, surrounded by landscaping. They also intended to integrate the park with the neighboring Walter

³⁹ "Open For Business," *Palo Alto Times*, (June 22, 1953).

Hays School play area to almost double total park area. Red rock paths were designed to wind through the park, and the adult pool was renovated.⁴⁰ In 1958, bond funds were used for a new tiny tot and picnic area and relocation of walkways (**Figure 23**).⁴¹

In addition, a new \$48,000 dressing room building for the pool was designed by architects Stedman and Williams of Palo Alto (**Figure 24**). The building was situated on the opposite (south) side of the pools from the old pool building. The building opened in 1958.⁴²

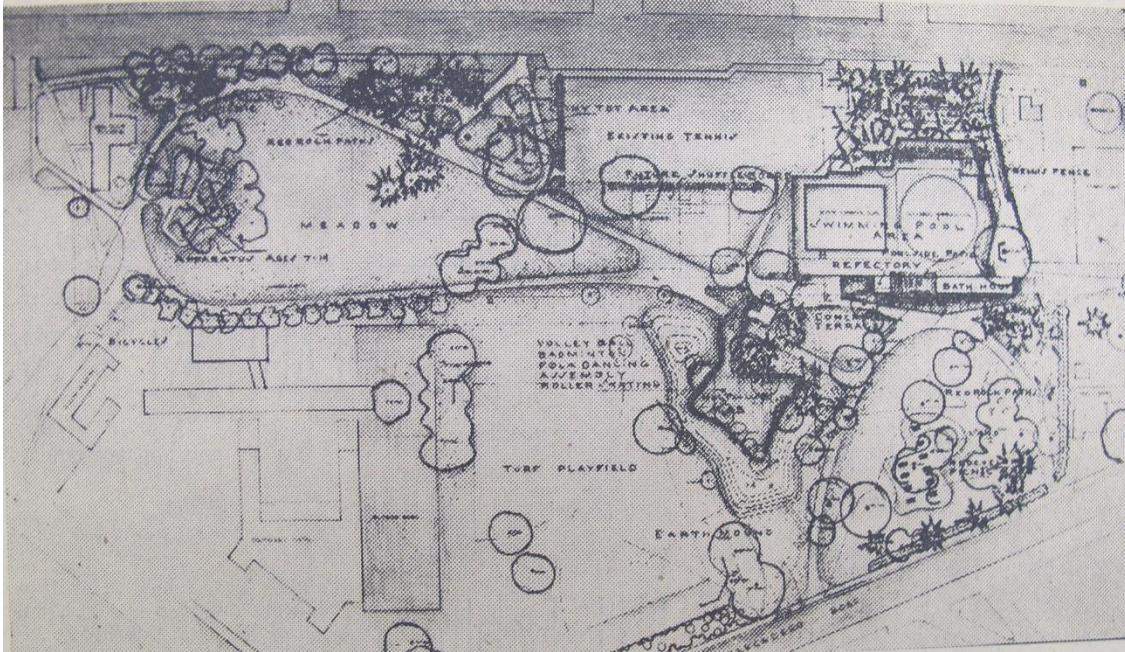


Figure 22: Eckbo, Royston, and Williams plan for park improvements. Of note, there was a picnic area west of the tiny tot playground and a picnic area at the southeast which are no longer extant. Source: "You'll Hardly Recognize the Park When This Job Is Done, *Palo Alto Times*, 9 February 1957.

⁴⁰ "You'll Hardly Recognize the Park When This Job Is Done." *Palo Alto Times* (February 9, 1957).

⁴¹ "Rinconada Park Tiny Tot Area," *Palo Alto Times*, (June 6, 1959).

⁴² "New Rinconada Swimming Pool Building," *Daily Palo Alto Times*, (May 22, 1957).

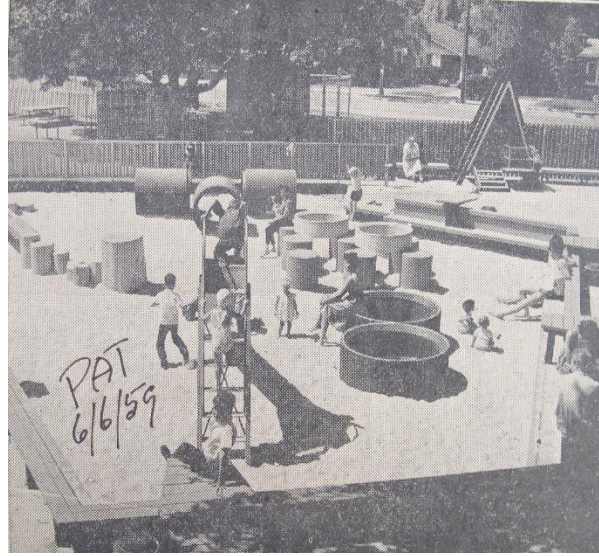


Figure 23: New tiny tot playground installed as part of the park modernization. The larger playground to the west was also developed.

Source: "Rinconada Park Tiny Tot Area," *Palo Alto Times*, 6 June 1959.

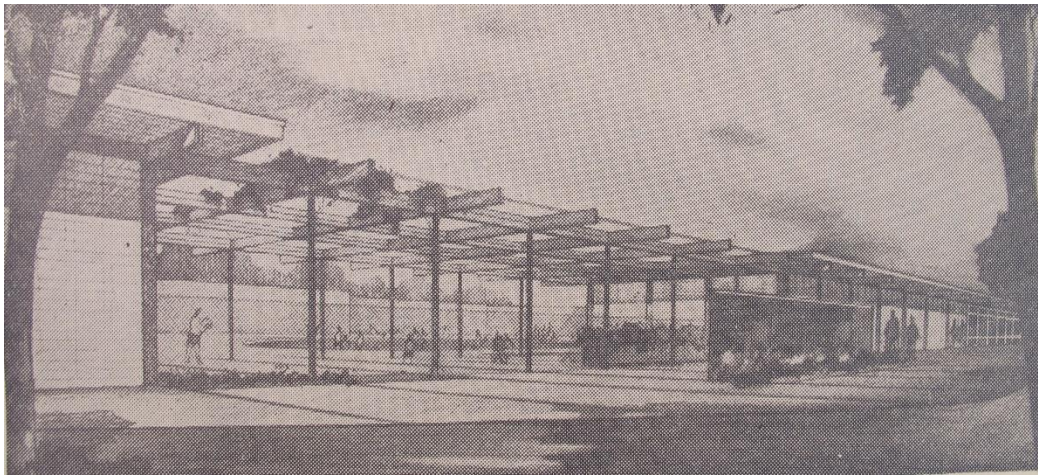


Figure 24: Perspective drawing of the new swimming pool building.

Source: "New Rinconada Swimming Pool Building," *Daily Palo Alto Times*, 22 May 1957.

1960s

Further developments were pursued in the 1960s. Master architect Edward Durell Stone was hired in 1966 to prepare master plans and perspective drawings for the improvements. Stone drew up plans that included reflection pools, but the City Council decided not to approve the proposal, primarily due to cost and safety concerns.⁴³

The park was expanded in 1967 to include a half-block piece of land that the city owned across Hopkins Avenue. In 1968, Edward Durell Stone, landscape architect Edward Durell Stone, Jr. & Associates, and landscape architect Jack C. Stafford collaborated on a project to design a new electric substation at the corner of Newell Road and Hopkins Avenue, construct a small pool service building, improve heating and filtration systems for the swimming pool, design the new tennis courts, and design a horseshoe pit, shuffleboard courts, benches, and a gazebo east of the swimming pool

⁴³ "Committee Pares Estimate: Rinconada Park plans slashed," *Palo Alto Times*, (November 8, 1967).

complex.⁴⁴ The eastern portion of the park was re-landscaped as part of this project, replacing a straight asphalt driveway and butane plant building.⁴⁵

The Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo continued to grow in size and popularity, and in 1969, a remodeled and expanded museum and zoo opened.

1970s

In 1970, three more tennis courts were constructed across Hopkins Avenue at Newell Road, occupying the site of an abandoned electrical substation, which was relocated into the new structure across Hopkins. The project was completed by the construction firm Hueting & Schromm of Menlo Park and cost \$39,927.

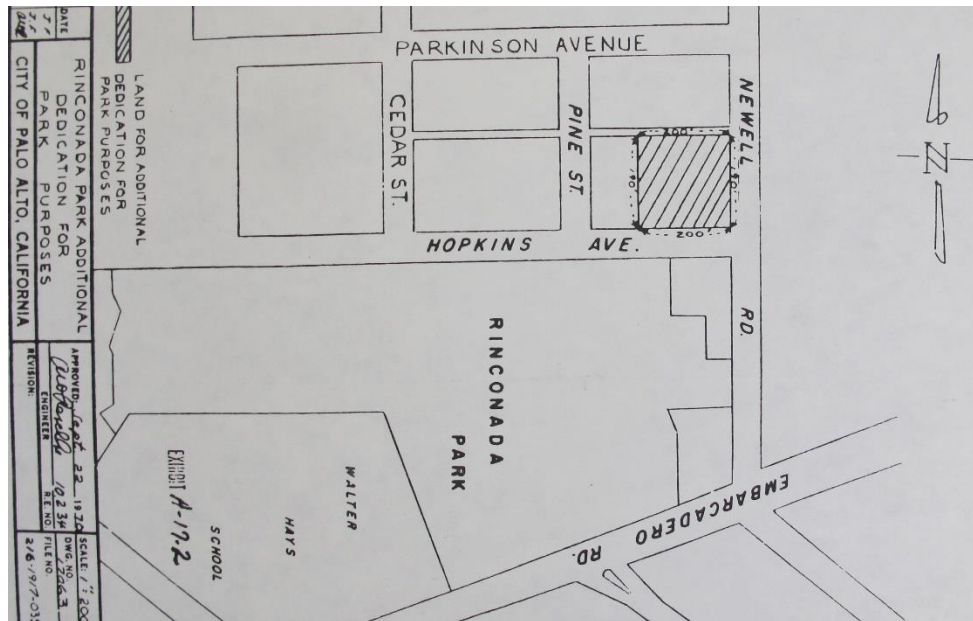


Figure 25: Additional land provided for park purposes and developed as tennis courts, 22 September 1970. Source: City of Palo Alto.

Irrigation was renovated in 1970. The Magic Forest was officially dedicated as such in 1971 in memory of Edith Ellery Patton (1877-1970).⁴⁶ The walkways were renovated in 1973 and the pools were renovated in 1978.⁴⁷

1980s

By 1980, park facilities were reported to include a jog run of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, apparatus play area, picnic facilities, tiny tot area, lighted tennis courts, swimming pools, and rest rooms.⁴⁸ The adult swimming pool was once again renovated in 1986 (Figure 26).⁴⁹ The tennis courts were renovated in 1989.⁵⁰

⁴⁴ "Palo Alto Park Job On Again," *San Jose Mercury*, (December 5, 1968).

⁴⁵ "City Council summary," *Palo Alto Times*, (November 21, 1967).

⁴⁶ Letter to the Palo Alto City Council (March 13, 1971).

⁴⁷ Peter Jensen, Palo Alto Planning Department, comments regarding project plans.

⁴⁸ *Voter*, October 1980, pg. 23.

⁴⁹ Palo Alto Historical Association files.

⁵⁰ Peter Jensen.

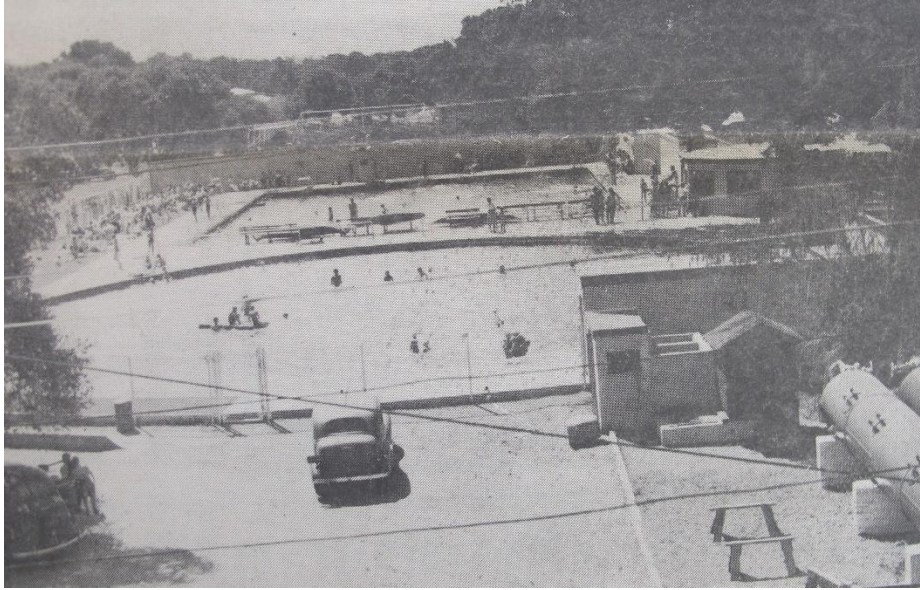


Figure 26: Rinconada Park's two swimming pools in 1987. The children's pool in the foreground was originally used as a waterworks reservoir.

Source: "Happy Birthday, Rinconada Park," *Palo Alto*, 28 March 1987.

1990s

In 1993 and 1998, the Palo Alto Children's Theatre underwent two phases of additions designed by architect John Northway. The first phase was completed by Jack and Cohen Builders Inc., and the second phase by Fernandes and Sons General Contractors. The exterior stage, accessed from the Secret Garden, was named the Roy A. Ginsburg Stage in honor of a generous donor.⁵¹

In 1997, \$115,000 worth of new playground equipment was installed at the two playgrounds.

In 1998-99, the children's pool (the old cooling pool of the power plant) was finally replaced at a cost of \$400,000. The new pool was designed in a cloverleaf shape with fountain features. A new pool storage facility was constructed, and the adult lap pool was also renovated at this time.⁵²

In 1999, the "Rinconada Oak" at the east side of the park was designated as Palo Alto Heritage Tree #2. The Coast Live Oak is 52 inches in diameter, 75 feet in height, with a 120-foot crown, estimated to have been planted ca. 1800.⁵³

2000s

In 2004, a land swap occurred with Walter Hays Elementary School, which had unknowingly expanded into Rinconada Park with portable school trailers.⁵⁴

In December 2005, the first major renovation began on the Children's Library. The building was closed for two years and re-opened on September 29, 2007. Two new wings were built that add nearly 2,500 square feet for programming and collections. The interior was upgraded, and the Secret Garden was renovated.⁵⁵

⁵¹ Plaques in the Secret Garden adjacent to the Children's Theater addition.

⁵² City Manager's Report, (February 22, 1999).

⁵³ City Manager's Report, (October 18, 1999).

⁵⁴ "City Council votes for outright land swapping," *Palo Alto Daily News*, (December 15, 2004).

⁵⁵ "Children's Library," City of Palo Alto.

2010s

From 2012 to 2017, a Long Range Development Plan has been under development and city review, which includes proposed concept designs for park upgrades over the next 20 years.⁵⁶

ARCHITECT / LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT BIOGRAPHIES

The following sections provides biographical information and discussion of the works of various architects and landscape architects who contributed to the buildings and features at Rinconada Park.

Birge M. Clark

Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House (1926)

Lucie Stern Community Center (1934-40)

Children's Library (1940)

Birge M. Clark was born on April 16, 1893 in San Francisco. His father had moved the family west the year before from Syracuse, New York to take a position as head of the Art and Architecture Department at Stanford University. Clark grew up around architecture as a child, and after high school he went to Stanford to study art and engineering, graduating in 1914. In 1917, he graduated from Columbia University with a graduate degree in architecture. That year he enlisted in the Army and went to France, where he served as a captain and a company commander in the Balloon Corps during World War I. Clark returned to Palo Alto in 1919, where he took part in the design of his first commission, the Herbert Hoover House, on the Stanford campus. In 1922, he married Lucile Townley and started a family that would eventually include four children. Clark taught architecture at Stanford from 1950 until 1972. In 1980, he joined the Palo Alto Historic Resources Board. In 1984, Clark retired from active participation in his firm Clark, Stromquist & Sandstrom and on April 30, 1989, he died at the age of 96.⁵⁷ All told, Birge Clark designed approximately 450 buildings in the Bay Area. Many of his buildings have been listed in local registers and the National Register of Historic Places.⁵⁸

Birge Clark was the most active and influential architect to work in Palo Alto during much of the twentieth century. He played an especially large role in the creation of Palo Alto during the boom times of the 1920s. A proponent of the Spanish Colonial Revival style, which he called "Early California," Clark's prolific output and stylistic consistency helped to give Palo Alto its current character. Clark designed a variety of commercial, residential and industrial buildings, including 98 residences in Palo Alto and 39 on the Stanford University campus. Some of Clark's most prominent residential commissions in Palo Alto include all the houses on Coleridge Avenue between Cowper and Webster Streets, the Dunker House at 420 Maple Street and the Lucie Stern residence at 1990 Cowper Street (1930). Well-known non-residential commissions include the former Palo Alto Police and Fire Station at 450 Bryant Street (now the Palo Alto Senior Center), the Hamilton Avenue Post Office (1932), the Lucie Stern Community Center (1936-40) and the 500 Block of Ramona Street (1929).⁵⁹

Clark's business tapered off during the Depression and World War II, when little construction was going on. Just as he was considering a new career, Clark contracted with Henry Kaiser to design the

⁵⁶ Palo Alto Historical Association files.

⁵⁷ "Birge Clark Dies at 96," *San Jose Mercury News*, (May 2, 1989).

⁵⁸ Rick Kushman, *Palo Alto Historical Association website*, "Birge Clark: The Man Behind the Blueprints," (April 15, 1994). http://www.service.com/paw/Centennial/1994_Apr_15.1920SE.html.

⁵⁹ Ward Winslow, *Palo Alto, A Centennial History*, (Palo Alto: Palo Alto Historical Association, 1993).

massive steel mill in Fontana, California. He then designed the first Hewlett Packard building on Page Mill Road (1942), and another at 1501 Page Mill Road in 1957.

David B. Clark

Children's Library (1940)

David Clark, younger brother to Birge Clark, was born in 1905 in San Francisco. Historian Dave Weinstein, author of *Signature Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area*, wrote: "There are those who think [Birge] Clark didn't care much about 'style' at all; that he was more interested in how a building worked, and that David Clark- his brother and, from 1928 until he died in 1944, partner- was the impetus behind the wrought iron and tile."⁶⁰ Perhaps the brothers' best-known design was the Sea Scout Base, constructed in 1940-41 and financed by Ruth Lucie Stern.⁶¹ They also designed Palo Alto's first junior high school, David Starr Jordan Middle School, which opened in 1937.⁶² The pair is credited with designing a Pontiac showroom and service department, located at 780 High Street. In addition to collaborations with Birge under the partnership Clark & Clark, David Clark is known to have independently designed 155 Island Drive in Palo Alto.⁶³

Dole Ford Thompson

Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo (1941)

Dole Ford Thompson received his architecture degree from the University of Michigan in 1927. He is known to have designed at least eleven buildings in Palo Alto, where he was based.⁶⁴ Most of his projects appear to be residences, but he also designed several small facilities buildings at Stanford University, including the janitors' quarters across from the men's gymnasium.⁶⁵

Kal H. Porter

Renovations to Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo (1968-69)

Kal H. Porter was a San Jose-based architect who primarily designed school facilities. He worked throughout Santa Clara County, including the New Inverness School in Cupertino, which featured all moveable walls, and schools for the Jefferson School District in Daly City. He founded the firm Porter, Jensen, Hansen, Manzagol Architects (now PJHM Architects) and Kal Porter, AIA and Associates, which became PSWC Group.⁶⁶

Edward Durell Stone

Pool equipment building and substation, gazebo, and shuffleboard and horseshoe courts (1968)

⁶⁰ Dave Weinstein, *Signature Architects of the Bay Area* (Utah: Gibbs Smith, 2006) p. 72.

⁶¹ City of Palo Alto, "Staff Report: 2560 Embarcadero Road," (August 6, 2008) p. 1.

⁶² "Birge Clark," *Palo Alto Online*, (May 25, 1994).

https://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/morgue/news/1994_May_25.CREATOR7.html

⁶³ "Prominent Architects and Builders," *Palo Alto Stanford Heritage*.

<http://www.pastheritage.org/ArchBuild.html#c>

⁶⁴ Page & Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation: Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, 1451 Middlefield Road," (July 20, 2016) p. 28.

⁶⁵ "New Janitor's Quarters Are Nearing Completion," *The Stanford Daily*, (August 15, 1935).

⁶⁶ Past Consultants, *San Jose Modernism Historic Context Statement*, (June 2009) p. 142.

Edward Durell Stone (1902-1978) was a highly prolific architect who made a substantial and lasting impact on the built environment of mid-century America. Born in Fayetteville, Arkansas in 1902, Stone attended the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University in 1925, followed by MIT in 1926. Traveling through Europe on a scholarship in 1927, he was strongly influenced by the work of Mies Van Der Rohe and other European Modernists of the 1920s.⁶⁷ Stone was among the early practitioners of the International Style in the United States and gained attention for the influential 1937 Museum of Modern Art in New York City, designed with Philip Goodwin and considered to be “at the time the most advanced architectural statement of European modernism in New York.”⁶⁸

Stone continued in the modernist vein through the 1940s for residential as well as commercial and public projects, “believing that its rigid structural system was well suited for the demands for efficiency and economy.”⁶⁹ However, Stone’s growing disillusionment with the strict minimalism of the International Style in the 1950s led to an exploration of ornamentation, materials and texture that resulted in an alternative modern aesthetic. His new approach is most clearly reflected in two projects, the American Embassy in New Delhi, India (1953-59) and the United States Pavilion for the Exposition Universelle et Internationale Bruxelles (1958), both of which brought Stone international attention.⁷⁰ Both projects used modern forms and materials, but incorporated decorative yet functional elements like grillework and deep overhangs for sun shading that also created more formal, elegant and approachable designs. From these and other projects in the 1950s that returned decoration and historical references to buildings, Stone was among the architects to define what would become New Formalism.

Stone’s New York-based firm grew significantly in the 1950s and 1960s with branches in Northern and Southern California. Among the West Coast projects in this period are the New Formalist Stuart Pharmaceutical Company Plant and Office Building (1958) and Caltech’s Beckman Auditorium (1963) in Pasadena, and the Edward T. Foley Center at Loyola Marymount University (1964) in Los Angeles, as well as the textile block campuses of Stanford Medical Center, Palo Alto (1955) and Harvey Mudd College, Claremont (1959). Stone also designed Palo Alto’s main library and (now demolished) Mitchell Park branch, as well as Palo Alto’s Civic Center in the late 1960s.⁷¹ When Stone finished his Palo Alto designs he returned to New York, but the small office he established in Palo Alto remained and thrived.

Starting about 1962 and through his retirement in 1974, Stone also worked on larger commissions like skyscrapers, corporate offices, capitols and universities where his alternatives to the glass-and-metal buildings moved away from the delicate grillework to explore other modern interpretations of classical forms, shapes, and layouts.⁷² The projects from this period reflected continued explorations of alternatives to the International Style with designs that may not fit neatly in the current definition of New Formalism but represent Stone’s desire for permanence, beauty, and timelessness. Perpetual Savings and Loan in Beverly Hills with its arched concrete shading wall and the Venetian-influenced Huntington Hartford Gallery (2 Columbus Circle, 1964) in New York are among these examples.

Among other local, national, and international projects of this period are:

⁶⁷ Ibid., 21-22., Paul Goldberger, “Edward Durell Stone Dead at 76; Designed Major Works Worldwide,” *New York Times*, August 7, 1978.

⁶⁸ Christopher Gray, “Streetscapes: Edward Durell Stone and the Gallery of Modern Art, at 2 Columbus Circle,” *New York Times*, October 27, 2002.

⁶⁹ Mary Anne Hunting, *Edward Durell Stone: Modernism’s Populist Architect*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013), p. 15.

⁷⁰ Hunting, p. 80-89.

⁷¹ “Busman’s Holiday: Edward Durell Stone & Palo Alto,” *The Tall Tree* (2011).
<http://www.pahistory.org/talltree/TT-2010-11.pdf>

⁷² Hunting, p.18, 122-124.

- John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington D.C. (1962)
- General Motors Buildings, New York City, NY (1964)
- Von KleinSmid Center, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA (1965)
- Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan (1965)
- PepsiCo World Headquarters, Purchase, NY (1967)
- Ahmanson Center, Los Angeles (1970), also for financier Howard Ahmanson

Stone's experimentation with alternative forms of modernism was one of several reactions to the International Style at the time, and was among the more commercially successful and popular forms of modern architecture. Although he received stinging criticism from the architectural establishment that saw his work as kitschy, populist, and decorative, Stone's talents and innovation as a designer merits his status as a master architect.⁷³ His body of work and New Formalism has increasingly gained recognition with Pasadena's Stuart Pharmaceutical Company Plant and Office Building listed in the National Register in 1998 and the Von KleinSmid Center at USC listed as a City of Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument in 2013.

Edward Durell Stone, Jr. & Associates

Landscaping by the gazebo (1968)

Edward Durell Stone, Jr. (1932-2009), was the son of Edward Durell Stone. Stone attended Yale University, where he received a degree in Architectural Design. He served three years as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force before pursuing landscape architecture. Earning a graduate degree in Landscape Architecture from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University, Stone began his career in 1959. In 1960, he founded Edward Durell Stone, Jr. & Associates, and began to collaborate on projects with his father. The firm enjoyed considerable success and expanded to become one of the nation's most respected landscape architecture firms. Stone was elected a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and received the 1994 ASLA Medal.⁷⁴

Jack C. Stafford

Landscaping by gazebo (1968)

Jack C. Stafford (1921 – 1998) is a notable landscape architect whose collections are today held at the University of California at Berkeley's Environmental Design Archives. The following is the biographical entry from the Jack Stafford Collection:

Jack Stafford was born in Casper, Wyoming. He attended the University of Wyoming for three years before joining the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. As a pilot, Stafford flew numerous missions in the South Pacific and earned a Silver Star medal and seven separate oak leaf clusters for his outstanding service. After leaving the Air Corps in 1944, he moved to California with his wife, Bonnie. Stafford soon enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley, graduating with a B.S. in Landscape Architecture in 1950. He began working with Thomas Church and took on management of Church's projects on the San Mateo peninsula south of San Francisco. He later established his own "Peninsula" practice focusing on residential designs for homes in Palo Alto, Woodside and

⁷³ Hunting, p. 110-114.

⁷⁴ "Paid Notice: Deaths. Stone, Edward Durell, Jr.," *The New York Times*, (July 14, 2009).

Hillsborough, among other cities. Stafford eventually became a member of the Architectural and Site Review Board in Woodside. He earned numerous awards for his work, including several design awards from landscaping contractors.⁷⁵

Jack Stafford is primarily known for his residential landscapes and was particularly active in Hillsborough, Los Altos Hills, Menlo Park, Woodside, Palo Alto, Atherton, and Portola Valley. He also completed several commercial landscape designs and some instances of municipal landscape planning for Menlo Park and Woodside.⁷⁶ Stafford donated plans for the Woodside Library Native Plant Garden in 1970.⁷⁷

Eckbo, Royston, and Williams

Multi-use bowl, renovation of recreation field, southeast lawn area, new walking paths, picnic table area, and playgrounds (1957-59)

The California-based landscape architecture firm Eckbo, Royston & Williams was established in 1945 by Garrett N. Eckbo, Robert N. Royston, and Edward A. Williams. Brothers-in-law Eckbo and Williams formed a partnership in Los Angeles that operated from 1940 until 1945, with Royston joining as a third partner in 1945. Prior to joining his brother-in-law, Williams served as a consultant to the San Mateo County Planning Commission on park design and public works.⁷⁸ Eckbo, Royston & Williams' firm began designing landscapes in the San Francisco Bay Area before expanding to southern California. The firm quickly became one of the country's leading landscape architecture firms, completing hundreds of residential, church, commercial, educational and office landscapes. In the 1950s, they worked on a number of larger scale projects that combined landscape design with urban planning. This included designs for parks and institutional landscapes.

The firm's northern California commissions include the roof garden of the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco (1946) and residences for the following clients: Marshall Hale in Hillsborough (1947), Joseph Allen Stein in Mill Valley (1947), C.I. Stafford in Los Altos (1948), Mrs. Frederick Faust in Berkeley (1949), Walter Von Der Lieth in Marin County (1949), A.M. MacDermott in Larkspur (1949), L.L. Olds in San Rafael (1949), and Jack Wilsy in San Rafael (1949).⁷⁹ They also worked on Dwinelle Plaza at UC Berkeley (1950), Gragg Park in Houston, Texas (1956), the Main Library and Civic Center in Palo Alto (1954-58) and Mayfield Park (1957).⁸⁰

The partnership was amicably dissolved in 1958. Eckbo engaged in progressively larger commissions throughout the 1960s, including the strategic open space plan for the entire state of California.⁸¹ Together, Eckbo and Williams took on a new partner, landscape architect Francis Dean, to form Eckbo, Dean & Williams. During that time, the company worked on the San Francisco Diamond Heights Housing Project #3 (1962) and the Fulton Mall in Fresno (1964). In 1964, Eckbo formed the prolific firm of Eckbo, Dean,

⁷⁵ "Jack Stafford," University of California Environmental Design Archives.

<http://archives.ced.berkeley.edu/collections/stafford-jack>

⁷⁶ "Records of Jack Stafford," *Online Archive of California*.

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt4n39s1hk/admin/#descgrp-1.3.12>

⁷⁷ "Woodside Library Native Plant Garden: History," Woodside Atherton Garden Club.

<http://woodsdeathertongc.org/cgi-bin/p/awtp-custom.cgi?id=woodsdeatherton-garden-club&page=9513>

⁷⁸ Peter Walker, Melanie Louise Simo, *Invisible Gardens*, (Boston: MIT Press, 1996) p. 133.

⁷⁹ Carey & Co., "Historic Resource Evaluation for One Spring Street," (March 28, 2013).

<http://commissions.sfplanning.org/cpcpackets/2012.0267D.pdf>

⁸⁰ The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Eckbo, Royston & Williams," website accessed on 17 May 2017 from:

<https://tclf.org/pioneer/eckbo-royston-williams>

⁸¹ Marc Treib, "Thomas Church, Garrett Eckbo, and the Postwar California Garden," National Park Service.

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/suburbs/Treib.pdf>

Austin and Williams (EDAW). In 1979, Eckbo left EDAW and established Garrett Eckbo and Associates, and ultimately, Eckbo Kay Associates.⁸² Eckbo also served as head of the Landscape Architecture Department at University of California, Berkeley from 1963 to 1969.

Meanwhile, Royston joined landscape architect Asa Hanamoto, and their partnership ultimately developed into Royston, Hanamoto, Alley & Abey (RHAA) in 1979. RHAA is still in existence and has offices in San Francisco and Mill Valley.²² Royston became known for his constructivist play sculptures in tot lots for neighborhood parks, such as Krusi Park in Alameda, CA; for the Standard Oil Rod and Gun Club in Richmond, CA; and for Mitchell Park, in Palo Alto.⁸³ He also worked on College Terrace Park (1962) in Palo Alto. Royston completed designs for St. Mary's Square in San Francisco, Bowden Park in Palo Alto, Central Park and the Santa Clara Civic Center in Santa Clara, and Cuesta Park in Mountain View. His vast body of work includes residential, commercial, educational, civic and transportation projects.⁸⁴

Stedman, Libby & Gray / Stedman & Williams

Fire station by Stedman, Libby & Gray (1948)

Pool building by Stedman & Williams (1957-58)

Morgan Stedman (1905-1978) was born in Brooklyn, New York and received his BA in Graphic Art from Stanford University before taking Masters-level coursework at Harvard University. While at Stanford, he studied under architect Arthur B. Clark, father of Palo Alto's most well-known architect Birge Clark. He moved to Palo Alto in 1921 and obtained his registration as an architect in California in 1945. He practiced in Palo Alto within the partnerships Sumner & Stedman (with Charles Kaiser Sumner) and Stedman, Libby, and Gray (with Furber Merrill Libby and Eugene Mills Gray). His first partner, Charles Kaiser Sumner, is a well-known regional architect who came to California in 1906 after working for the prominent New York firm of McKim, Mead and White. Stedman appears to have partnered with Sumner from the late 1930s until 1941; the work during this period is notably eclectic in style, based on the revival styles popular during the Interwar period. It is likely that Stedman was influenced by Sumner's focus on the relationship between the garden and the house. During World War II, Stedman worked with Kaiser Industries in Santa Clara County, in Los Angeles, and at a submarine base in New London, Connecticut.⁸⁵ Palo Alto Fire Station No. 3 was designed by Stedman, Libby & Gray around 1947. Stedman is known to have designed 2000 Bryant Street, Palo Alto (1930) and 351 La Questa Way, Woodside (1948).⁸⁶ He also designed the Hogle Japanese teahouse with rice-paper doors for Oak Meadow, an eleven-acre property in Los Altos Hills.⁸⁷ Stedman primarily completed residential designs, and became known for signature design details including "low ceilings with exposed beams, built-in cubbyholes and cabinets, a unique fireplace, Arts-and-Craft tile shower stalls, and wrought iron fixtures."⁸⁸

⁸² "Garret Eckbo," Los Angeles Conservancy. <https://www.laconservancy.org/architects/garrett-eckbo>

⁸³ Walker and Simo, p. 141.

⁸⁴ "Inventory of Robert N. Royston Collection," *Online Archive of California*.

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt8b69q7nx/admin/>

⁸⁵ Garavaglia Architecture, "799 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA Historic Resource Evaluation-Draft," (August 1, 2016) p. 21.

⁸⁶ Architectural and Site Review Board, Woodside: Meeting Minutes. November 4, 2013.

https://www.woodsidetown.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/351_la_questa_way_attachments.pdf

⁸⁷ Lauren McSherry, "Los Altos Hill lands large gift: Environmental pioneer Lois Crozier Hogle donates 11-acre property," *Los Altos Town Crier* (January 25, 2005).

<https://www.losaltosonline.com/news/sections/news/215-news-briefs/30154-J26789>

⁸⁸ "Palo Alto: Spanish Revival by Stedman," Redfin.

https://www.redfin.com/blog/2007/05/palo_alto_spanish_revival_by_stedman.html

By the late 1940s, his projects were sometimes in conjunction with his wife, landscape architect Kathryn Imlay Stedman (1900-1997). Kathryn worked with Joseph Eichler in the 1950s, designed the landscaping for Eichler's personal residence, and was published in *Life Magazine*. Some of the joint projects of the Stedmans were profiled within *House Beautiful*. By 1954, Stedman had entered the partnership of Stedman & Williams (with Russell E. Williams). Three houses on the Stanford University campus were designed by Morgan Stedman on Governor's Avenue, Santa Teresa, and Searsville Road.⁸⁹ He designed the clubhouse building at the Palo Alto Little League field. Stedman's identified residential work in Palo Alto and around Stanford included new construction, additions, and renovations that were reflective of revival styles. He also designed a shopping center and a medical office in Palo Alto, neither of which remain today.⁹⁰

In 1959, Morgan and Kathryn Stedman were among the founding members of the Committee for Green Foothills, and were open space preservation advocates for the foothills west of the Palo Alto area.⁹¹ Stedman was a member of the Palo Alto Planning Commission from 1947-1954, and served as Chair from 1951-1953. Additionally, he served as Vice President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Coast Valley Chapter.⁹²

Russell E. Williams (1909- 1998) was born in Milbank, South Dakota. He received his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1934. He moved to New York City and began working for prominent industrial designer Norman Bel Geddes, and then with architect Morris Sander on the New York World's Fair in 1939. In 1940, Williams joined the Ellerbe architectural firm in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he primarily worked on hospitals and clinics designs, including the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. By 1948, he moved to Los Angeles, where he worked for industrial designers Raymond Loewy and Henry Dreyfuss. In 1951, Williams designed the residence at 2040 Louis Road in Palo Alto. He worked with Wurster, Beranrdi & Emmons in San Francisco and then formed the architectural partnership Stedman & Williams in Palo Alto in 1954. Williams received NCARB certification by 1955, and became a member of AIA, Coast Valley Chapter, in 1955. In 1963, he became a Senior Planner at Stanford University. He later joined James W. Fong & Associates in Palo Alto as a corporate partner until his retirement in 1976.⁹³

⁸⁹ Jason Yotopoulos, "Application for Historic Assessment by Palo Alto Historic Resources Board: Palo Alto Little League Baseball Field at 3672 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto," (September 29, 2014). <https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/44234>.

⁹⁰ Garavaglia Architecture, p. 21.

⁹¹ https://www.woodsidesetown.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/351_la_questa_way_attachments.pdf

⁹² "Henry Morgan Stedman," PCAD. <http://pcad.lib.washington.edu/person/578/>

⁹³ "Williams, Russell Emanuel," *Monterey County Herald*, (September 11, 1998) p. B3.

V. EVALUATION

CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is an inventory of significant architectural, archaeological, and historical resources in the State of California. Resources can be listed in the California Register through a number of methods. State Historical Landmarks and National Register-listed properties are automatically listed in the California Register. Properties can also be nominated to the California Register by local governments, private organizations, or citizens. The California Register of Historical Resources follows nearly identical guidelines to those used by the National Register, but identifies the Criteria for Evaluation numerically.

In order for a property to be eligible for listing in the California Register, it must be found significant under one or more of the following criteria.

- *Criterion 1 (Events)*: Resources that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.
- *Criterion 2 (Persons)*: Resources that are associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.
- *Criterion 3 (Architecture)*: Resources that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values.
- *Criterion 4 (Information Potential)*: Resources or sites that have yielded or have the potential to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

The following section examines the eligibility of Rinconada Park for listing in the California Register. As the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo and Fire Station #3 have been evaluated in separate Historic Resource Evaluation reports, they will not specifically be discussed in this evaluation.

Criterion 1 (Events)

Rinconada Park was the second public park developed in the City of Palo Alto. Originally formed from the conversion of a waterworks tank to a swimming pool in 1922, the park developed over time through a number of construction projects and landscape design plans. The original pool is no longer extant, replaced in 1997 by the current children's wading pool. Other early features of the park, such as the tennis courts and recreation field, have been redesigned over time. The "Magic Forest" redwood grove, which appears in park plans from 1934, and the lap pool, installed in 1938-40, are somewhat notable for their relatively early development; however, they are not individually historically significant as landscape or recreation features and do not contribute to a larger significant cultural landscape. Thus, the park as a whole does not appear to represent its early role in the development of public recreation spaces in Palo Alto such that it would be significant under Criterion 1 (Events).

Several buildings at Rinconada Park do appear to be individually significant under California Register Criterion 1 as resources associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of local or regional history. The Lucie Stern Community Center (Offices, Main Theater, Boy Scouts headquarters, original Children's Theater) and related Children's Library are significant as a

complex because they provided important community gathering spaces and amenities; the theaters are unique within Palo Alto and in the area.

In addition, the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House is individually significant under Criterion 1 as the first recreation-related building to be constructed at Rinconada Park in 1925, and as the oldest active scout meeting house in the country. The bird bath in the garden to the west, dedicated to “Edward Philip Sheridan, Scout, 1886-1925” contributes to the building’s significance since it relates to scouting from the same time period in which the building was constructed.

Criterion 2 (Persons)

Rinconada Park does not appear to have been associated with persons important to the history of Palo Alto or the State of California to the extent that the park as a whole would be considered eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 2 (Persons).

The Lucie Stern Community Center is individually significant in association with Lucie and Ruth Stern, local benefactors who funded the development. Lucie and Ruth had inherited a portion of the Levi Strauss clothing empire from Lucie’s husband, Louis Stern. They were major benefactors of community amenities in Palo Alto, but are best known for their contributions to the Community Center at Rinconada Park.

The Girl Scout House is also individually significant for its association with its namesake and benefactor, Lou Henry Hoover. Hoover established the first West Coast troop in Palo Alto and served as president of Girl Scouts of the USA from 1922 to 1925 and again from 1935 to 1937. The Girl Scout House was constructed while she was actively involved in both Palo Alto Girl Scouting and at the national level of the Council. The Girl Scout House represents Lou Henry Hoover’s significant contribution to the Girl Scouts, particularly since Palo Alto was the first location established on the West Coast.

Criterion 3 (Architecture/Design)

Rinconada Park as a whole does not appear to be significant under Criterion 3 (Architecture/Design), as it was designed and altered incrementally and in a series of master plan campaigns. Portions of the park landscape, such as the paved parking lot and adjacent landscaping between the Lucie Stern Community Center and the JMZ, appear to have been installed in the 1940s as those buildings were constructed and opened. The landscaping in the interstitial spaces does not appear particularly intentionally designed, and the plantings have likely been updated throughout the years, including at the demonstration garden adjacent to the Girl Scout House.

Most of the park as it appears today is largely the responsibility of the well-known mid-century landscape architecture firm of Eckbo, Royston, and Williams. They designed the amoebic multi-use bowl, renovated the recreation field and southeast lawn area, designed new walking paths, picnic table areas, and playgrounds in a master plan developed in 1957 and completed in 1959. Their plan did not extend to the western part of the park mentioned above. The Rinconada Park landscape re-design occurred at the end of the partnership, before the three designers went on to form new partnerships. The partnership of Eckbo, Royston, and Williams is best known for their landscape projects for private residences and other civic projects such as the main library and civic center in Palo Alto. Their project at Rinconada Park does not appear to have been recognized in publications and trade journals at the time. While the amoebic-shaped multi-use bowl and associated light fixtures were very mid-century landscape features, the other changes to the park are not particularly noteworthy. Royston was recognized for his pioneering tot playground designs, but the equipment installed in the late 1950s has since been replaced. His most recognized public park projects are discussed in *Modern Public Gardens: Robert Royston and the Suburban Park* (Reuben Rainey, and J.C.

Miller, 2006), but Rinconada Park is not mentioned in the book. Thus, the 1957-59 landscape plan does not appear significant in association with Eckbo, Royston, and Williams or for its design.

Similarly, the prominent modernist architect Edward Durell Stone designed the new substation building, gazebo, and landscaping at the northeast end of the park with his son, Edward Durell Stone, Jr., and Jack Stafford in 1968-69. Compared to his other recognized works in Palo Alto and around the country, Stone's contribution to Rinconada Park does not best represent his body of work. The same can be said for Edward Durell Stone, Jr. and Jack Stafford, the latter of whom is best known for his residential work.

Likewise, the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House, while designed by prolific Palo Alto architect Birge Clark, is a rustic cabin-style building that does not best represent Clark's penchant for the Spanish Colonial Revival style for which he is best known. The building was constructed in the mid-1920s during a time when Clark was quite busy in Palo Alto, and thus does not represent a particularly early or unique period in his career, either. It has also been moved and was added onto in 1945, changing the original orientation and design to an extent so that it cannot be found significant for its architecture.

The pool building by Stedman & Williams represents the mid-century period and architectural style. It is a relatively modest building, however, and does not appear to rise to a level of significance such that it would be considered individually eligible for listing in the California Register. Stedman & Williams are best known for their residential projects reflective of revival styles. The design of the Rinconada pool building does not appear to have been recognized and published in architectural journals at the time.

While the park as a whole and many of its buildings and features are not significant for design, the Lucie Stern Community Center and associated Children's Library, as well as the landscaping surrounding that complex (lawn, brick walkways, and turn-around driveway at Middlefield and Melville; two landscaped courtyards, and the Secret Garden) that were built between 1936 and 1940, do appear to be individually significant under California Register Criterion 3. This complex of Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings, integrated garden courtyards, and surrounding landscaping represent a type, period, and method of construction and are also excellent examples of the work of Birge Clark and David Clark.

Criterion 4 (Information Potential)

Rinconada Park was not evaluated for significance under Criterion 4 (Information Potential). Criterion 4 generally applies to the potential for archaeological information to be uncovered at the site, which is beyond the scope of this report.

INTEGRITY

In order to qualify for listing in the National Register or the California Register, a property must possess significance under one of the aforementioned criteria and have historic integrity. Integrity is defined as "the authenticity of an historical resource's physical identity by the survival of certain characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance," or more simply defined as "the ability of a property to convey its significance."⁹⁴ The process of determining integrity is similar for both the National Register and the California Register. The same seven variables or aspects that define integrity—location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association—are used

⁹⁴ California Office of Historic Preservation, *Technical Assistance Series No. 7: How to Nominate a Resource to the California Register of Historical Resources* (Sacramento, CA: California Office of State Publishing, September 4, 2001), p. 11; National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1997), p. 44.

to evaluate a resource's eligibility for listing in the National Register and the California Register. According to the *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, these seven characteristics are defined as follows:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed.

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plans, space, structure, and style of the property.

Setting addresses the physical environment of the historic property inclusive of the landscape and spatial relationships of the building(s).

Materials refer to the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern of configuration to form the historic property.

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history.

Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

Of the buildings and designed landscape elements that have been identified as significant under California Register criteria in the previous section, all retain sufficient integrity to represent their significance. The Lucie Stern Community Center, Children's Library, Secret Garden, and other related landscaped areas have been minimally changed over time. They retain the same location, design (aside from replacement of some plantings and construction of the outdoor children's theater stage), general setting at Rinconada Park in a residential neighborhood, materials (aside from replacement of some plantings), workmanship, and the feeling and association of a ca. 1930s Spanish Colonial Revival style theater and community center complex. Likewise, the Girl Scout House retains overall integrity; while it was moved early on, it has been located in its current position since 1936 and retains integrity of general design (aside from the 1945 addition of the garage), setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is still able to convey its significance in association with Lou Henry Hoover and the establishment of the Girl Scouts since it continues to be used by the Girl Scouts today.

SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

The following buildings and features appear significant and eligible for listing in the California Register:

Name of Building/Feature	California Register Eligibility
Lucie Stern Community Center Complex Site - Community Center (offices, theater, children's theater, Boy Scout headquarters) - Children's Library - Secret Garden - Brick walkways - Turnaround driveway - South courtyard - Lawn to the west of the Community Center - Brick wall west of the Children's Theater	Criteria 1, 2, and 3
Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House Site - Girl Scout House - Paved area and garden immediately west of the building's main entrance - Bird bath	Criteria 1, 2



Figure 27. The Lucie Stern Community Center Complex site is colored peach (Note: numbers 3, 43, 47, and 48 do not contribute, as they are later additions). The Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House site is colored blue.

Source: Open Street View Map, edited by author.

VI. PROPOSED PROJECT ANALYSIS

This section analyzes the proposed project for project-specific and cumulative impacts on the environment, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The California Environment Quality Act (CEQA) is state legislation (Pub. Res. Code §21000 et seq.), that provides for the development and maintenance of a high quality environment for the present day and future through the identification of significant environmental effects.⁹⁵ For public agencies, the main goals of CEQA are to:

- Identify the significant environmental effects of projects; and either
- Avoid those significant environmental effects, where feasible; or
- Mitigate those significant environmental effects, where feasible.

CEQA applies to “projects” proposed to be undertaken or requiring approval from state or local government agencies. “Projects” are defined as “...activities which have the potential to have a physical impact on the environment and may include the enactment of zoning ordinances, the issuance of conditional use permits and the approval of tentative subdivision maps.”⁹⁶ Historical and cultural resources are considered to be part of the environment. In general, the lead agency must complete the environmental review process as required by CEQA. The basic steps are:

1. Determine if the activity is a “project;”
2. Determine if the project is exempt from CEQA;
3. Perform an Initial Study to identify the environmental impacts of the Project and determine whether the identified impacts are “significant.” Based on the finding of significant impacts, the lead agency may prepare one of the following documents:
 - a) Negative Declaration for findings of no “significant” impacts;
 - b) Mitigated Negative Declaration for findings of “significant” impacts that may revise the Project to avoid or mitigate those “significant” impacts;
 - c) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for findings of “significant” impacts.

Status of Existing Building as a Historic Resource

A building may qualify as a historic resource if it falls within at least one of four categories listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a). The four categories are:

- A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission, for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et seq.).
- A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1 (g) of the Public Resources Code, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.

⁹⁵ State of California, California Environmental Quality Act, accessed 19 November 2013, http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/summary.html.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852).
- The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, not included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to section 5020.1(k) of the Pub. Resources Code), or identified in an historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in section 5024.1(g) of the Pub. Resources Code) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be an historical resource as defined in Pub. Resources Code sections 5020.1(j) or 5024.1.

In general, a resource that meets any of the four criteria listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a) is considered to be a historical resource unless "the preponderance of evidence demonstrates" that the resource is not historically or culturally significant."⁹⁷

Based on analysis and evaluation contained in this evaluation, the Rinconada Park in its entirety was not found to be eligible for listing in the California Register under any criteria. However, the Lucie Stern Community Center complex site (including the Lucie Stern Community Center, Children's Library, as well as the landscaping surrounding that complex—lawn, brick walkways, and turn-around driveway at Middlefield and Melville; two landscaped courtyards; and the Secret Garden) was found significant under Criterion 1 for its role in providing community gathering spaces and amenities, Criterion 2 in association with benefactors Lucie and Ruth Stern, and Criterion 3 for its Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings and integrated landscape design. The Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House site was found significant under Criterion 1 for its early role in scouting and Criterion 2 in association with Lou Henry Hoover. Meeting the criteria for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources, the Lucie Stern Community Center complex site and the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House are considered qualified historic resources under CEQA, following the third of the categories listed above.

The subject parcel, which encompasses all of Rinconada Park, is designated in City of Palo Alto records as a Category 1 property because of the Lucie Stern Community Center. The Category 1 designation does not apply to any other building or facility within the park. The Lucie Stern Community Center is considered a qualified historic resource under CEQA under the second of the categories listed above.

Determination of Significant Adverse Change Under CEQA

According to CEQA, a "project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historic resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment."⁹⁸ Substantial adverse change is defined as: "physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historic resource would be materially impaired."⁹⁹ The significance of an historical resource is materially impaired when a project "demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance" and that justify

⁹⁷ Pub. Res. Code SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et seq.

⁹⁸ CEQA Guidelines subsection 15064.5(b).

⁹⁹ CEQA Guidelines subsection 15064.5(b)(1).

or account for its inclusion in, or eligibility for inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to local ordinance or resolution.¹⁰⁰ Thus, a project may cause a substantial change in a historic resource but still not have a significant adverse effect on the environment as defined by CEQA as long as the impact of the change on the historic resource is determined to be less-than-significant, negligible, neutral or even beneficial.

PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed work at Rinconada Park includes a project-level and program-level component: 1) replacement of the existing Junior Museum and Zoo building with a new facility, and 2) implementation of the Rinconada Long Range Plan (LRP). Implementation of the plan is anticipated to take up to 20 years. The JMZ project is one portion of the LRP.

Junior Museum and Zoo and Adjacent Parking Project

The project includes the demolition of the existing 9,000 sf, one and partial two-story museum building and construction of a new one-story 15,033 sf museum and educational building in the same location as the existing building. The new building would have a gabled roof reaching a maximum height of 27 feet. Amenities in the building would include educational classrooms and educational courtyard, a teacher area, general storage area, a small exhibit maintenance shop, indoor exhibits, and restroom facilities. The main JMZ entrance plaza would lead into the lobby and reception area of the JMZ building. New walkways near the new JMZ building would connect with parking lot improvements, Middlefield Road, and the Rinconada Park.

The project would also construct a new open-air netted enclosure and supporting outdoor animal management area. The 17,415 sf, 36-foot tall netted enclosure would be accessible from the JMZ building. The netted enclosure, referred to as “Loose in the Zoo,” would feature animal exhibits with landscaped features. The netting would allow for exhibition birds to fly about the enclosure.

Parking Lots Redesign

The existing parking lots located adjacent to the JMZ and between the Lucie Stern Community Center and Girl Scout House would be reconfigured to improve traffic flow, maximize parking spaces, improve landscaping and lighting, and increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Vehicular access to the Girl Scout House’s existing garage would be maintained, and the bird bath dedicated to a Boy Scout leader is anticipated to be relocated near the Boy Scout building in the Lucie Stern Complex.

One of the existing driveway curb cuts on Middlefield Road to the parking lot would be eliminated, and a bus drop off zone in front of the JMZ would be provided. The reconfigured parking lots would be connected for automobile traffic and provide improved pedestrian pathways to the many surrounding facilities. The components include:

- Dedicated bike and pedestrian entrance at intersection of Kellogg and Middlefield (separated from vehicular entrance), raised pathway through the parking lot and direct connection to pathways in the park;
- Safe pedestrian pathway through parking lot leading to JMZ entry plaza defined by colored concrete;
- New, single vehicular entrance mid-block on Middlefield Road and new vehicular entrance onto Hopkins;
- Fire truck and bus access through the parking lot with dedicated driveway onto Hopkins (no standard vehicular use);

¹⁰⁰ CEQA Guidelines subsection 15064.5(b)(2).

- Two-way circulation through the parking lot with dedicated drop-off and loading zone near JMZ entrance and park arrival plaza;
- Efficient stormwater treatment system: pervious paving, shallow treatment area, and connection to storm drainage line in utility corridor;
- 50 percent shading requirement met by existing and new trees; and
- Increase in bicycle parking (including racks at the entrance to JMZ and the park) and increase in long-term bicycle storage for staff.

The current demonstration garden on the west side of the Girl Scout House would be relocated within the park near Walter Hays Elementary School as part of the parking lot renovations.

Rinconada Park Long Range Plan

The Rinconada Park LRP was developed by the City of Palo Alto Public Works Department to guide the future development and renovation of Rinconada Park. The LRP includes the following components that are not already covered in the JMZ project:

Entry Plazas, Internal Pathways, Access, and Alternative Transportation Improvements

Two main pedestrian entry plazas would be developed at the west and east entrances to the park. The west entrance to Rinconada Park, north of the proposed JMZ building, would be improved with an entry plaza that would showcase the large existing trees and provide elements such as an enhanced entry noting the point of arrival, way-finding signage, and pedestrian scale art work.

A formalized entry would be located at the east edge of the park on Newell Road, north of Fire Station #3, and would include improvements such as an enhanced entry, reduction of turf with accent drought tolerant plantings, and way-finding signage.

The existing pathways in the park are asphalt and in need of renovation. Pathways within the park would be expanded and enhanced. The project includes multimodal circulation improvements to connect the site to the surrounding neighborhood. Perimeter sidewalks and on-street parking would be expanded and enhanced along Hopkins Avenue and Embarcadero Road. Bike racks would be provided throughout the park. An enhanced shuttle stop would replace the existing stop on Newell Road to promote the use of alternate forms of transportation to the park. A new bus drop off area would be installed on Middlefield Road to provide a direct access to the park amenities from the many school programs that utilize the park, reducing the impact of bus parking on Hopkins Avenue and in the adjacent parking lots.

West Playground Area/Girl Scout Picnic Area/Large Turf Area

The two existing playgrounds in Rinconada Park are proposed to be combined into one playground located in a defined children's play area at the west end of the park in close proximity to the JMZ and Walter Hays School access points. An expansion of the existing picnic area would be part of the new playground configuration. Adult exercise equipment would be provided at the eastern edge of the playground. The existing trees in this area would be protected and maintained. The area next to the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House would serve public use but cater to use by the Girl Scouts, with a fire pit, food preparation table, benches and picnic tables in a small gathering area.

The existing turf area in the central portion of the park, south and east of the picnic areas, is highly used and would be maintained in its current condition to the extent possible. This area is currently utilized for community gatherings such as outdoor performances, movies and concerts and is used by the community services department for youth activities and camps. The turf area will continue to maintain the current schedule of use and programming.

Street and Access Improvements on Hopkins Avenue, Newell Road, and Embarcadero Road

New sidewalks and crosswalks aligning with adjacent sidewalk curb cuts are proposed along Hopkins Avenue. Additionally, new head in parking stalls are proposed to be installed along Hopkins Avenue, west of the tennis courts. The City is also exploring shifting the sidewalks along Embarcadero Road northward to provide additional street parking and a turning lane.

The topped redwood trees along Newell Road would be replaced with small scale trees that would not interfere with the overhead power lines. In the area gained from the removal of the redwoods, new plantings and a meandering pathway pulled away from Newell Road will provide a connection from the park's main east entry to the crosswalk at the corner of Hopkins Avenue and Newell Road. An enhanced shuttle stop would also be located along this new pathway. Artwork panels are proposed to replace the existing fencing currently screening the electric substation located at the northeast corner of the park when replacement of the fence is required.

Tennis Court Area

The existing tennis courts on Hopkins Avenue would be shifted to the west to allow for a pedestrian access route along the east side of the courts. The proposed shifting of the courts would occur when the tennis courts paving receive full renovation and replacement.

Magic Forest

The area consists of over 60 mature redwoods which would be preserved. Minimal improvements to this area would include a lighted access path to the existing ball wall and into the park, a new sidewalk at the curb edge to provide pedestrian access along Hopkins Avenue, picnic tables and benches, and a proposed children's natural play area.

Pool Area Improvements

The existing pool deck areas would be expanded on the east and west sides for lounging, supervision, and aquatic events. The area east of the pool and adjacent to the electric substation would include a new picnic area, and seating. Other amenities such as a bocce ball court will also be considered when the area is renovated. On the south side of the pool building, a plaza with thematic paving, shaded seating areas, and artwork to support the pool area activities and concessions, would be installed.

The LRP includes a full renovation of the existing 4,700 sf pool building, which includes locker rooms, offices, and pool storage. In addition to the renovated building, a 2,300 sf wing would be added to the west end to include a public restroom, activity room and possible concession area. The restroom would replace the existing restroom building currently located in the same area.

Arboretum

The priority of this area in the LRP is to maintain the native and heritage oak trees for years to come. The current pathways would be upgraded throughout this area with a permeable material and new oak trees will be planted to preserve the oak stand.

Special Event Area (Concrete Bowl)

The existing concrete bowl space south of the pool area will maintain its current use as a small performance space with the same seating capacity. Small outdoor events are currently occurring at the bowl; therefore, this is not a new use on the site. The hours of operation and number of events scheduled for the bowl would continue. The project proposes to install a new stage to replace the old undersized stage. The stage would be oriented to the southwest, away from the nearest residential uses. Coordination with Walter Hays Elementary School to utilize the bowl for educational gatherings is also proposed as part of the LRP.

JMZ Phase II: Outdoor Zoo Building

The JMZ project includes a proposed future two-story 3,600 sf building adjacent to the zoo area. The building, which would have a gabled roof reaching a maximum height of 25 feet, would consist of a classroom on the first floor and a butterfly/insect exhibit on the second floor. The massing and material of the future Outdoor Zoo Building would be similar to the proposed JMZ building.

With construction of both Phase I and Phase II of the JMZ redevelopment, the project would result in a net increase of 9,600 sf of floor area compared to the existing JMZ facility. It is anticipated that build out of Phase II may not be completed for up to ten years.

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS: JMZ PROJECT

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation & Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (Standards) provide guidance for reviewing proposed work on historic properties, with the stated goal of making possible "a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values."¹⁰¹ The Standards are used by Federal agencies in evaluating work on historic properties. The Standards have also been adopted by local government bodies across the country for reviewing proposed rehabilitation work on historic properties under local preservation ordinances. The Standards are a useful analytic tool for understanding and describing the potential impacts of substantial changes to historic resources. Projects that comply with the Standards benefit from a regulatory presumption that they would have a less-than-significant adverse impact on a historic resource.¹⁰² Projects that *do not* comply with the Standards may cause either a substantial or less-than-substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource.

The Standards offers four sets of standards to guide the treatment of historic properties: Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction. The four distinct treatments are defined as follows:

Preservation: The Standards for Preservation "require retention of the greatest amount of historic fabric, along with the building's historic form, features, and detailing as they have evolved over time."

Rehabilitation: The Standards for Rehabilitation "acknowledge the need to alter or add to a historic building to meet continuing new uses while retaining the building's historic character."

Restoration: The Standards for Restoration "allow for the depiction of a building at a particular time in its history by preserving materials from the period of significance and removing materials from other periods."

Reconstruction: The Standards for Reconstruction "establish a limited framework for recreating a vanished or non-surviving building with new materials, primarily for interpretive purposes."

Typically, one set of standards is chosen for a project based on the project scope. In this case, the proposed JMZ and parking lot project scope is seeking to alter and add to a park that includes historic resources. Therefore, the *Standards for Rehabilitation* will be applied.

¹⁰¹National Park Service, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties*, accessed online 19 November 2013, <http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/>.

¹⁰² CEQA Guidelines subsection 15064.5(b)(3).

Standards for Rehabilitation

The following analysis applies each of the applicable *Standards for Rehabilitation* to the proposed JMZ project. This analysis is based upon the proposed designs by Cody Anderson Wasney Architects, dated 27 April 2017, as submitted to Page & Turnbull by the City of Palo Alto. The analysis focuses on the project as it relates to the Lucie Stern Community Center site and the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House site.

Rehabilitation Standard 1: *A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.*

Discussion: The proposed project does not change the overall recreational uses of Rinconada Park, including the historic uses of the Lucie Stern Community Center and Girl Scout House.

Therefore, as planned, the proposed project is in compliance with Rehabilitation Standard 1.

Rehabilitation Standard 2: *The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize the property will be avoided.*

Discussion: As proposed, the project involves the demolition and new construction of the JMZ, as well as reconfiguration of the parking lot to the south and east of the Lucie Stern Community Center and to the west of the Girl Scout House. The JMZ building and site are sufficiently separated from the Girl Scout House across a paved and planted “park arrival plaza” that the new construction will not directly affect the character of the historic building.

The redesigned parking lot would not affect the Lucie Stern Community Center site; the pavement would occupy a smaller footprint compared to the current paving at the south side of the complex, adding more lawn and plantings to the building’s setting. While the driveway approach would be removed from Middlefield Road to the south, a pedestrian circulation approach would replace the driveway. Thus, the view on approach to the south courtyard would remain. The historic building complex and landscaped courtyards and lawn to the west would not be affected.

The parking lot would be enlarged at the northeast, coming closer to the primary façade of the Girl Scout House. The space of the “front yard” of the Girl Scout House would change, as the paving would extend across the full length of the building’s façade. The area would be paved with an organic concrete pathway, new oak trees, bark mulch ground cover, and native grass plantings. The bird bath would be moved to a location near the Boy Scout Building at the Lucie Stern Community Center. This part of the project would affect the spatial relationship between the Girl Scout House and the bird bath, dedicated to “Edward Philip Sheridan, Scout, 1886-1925,” which contributes to the building’s significance since it relates to scouting from the same time period in which the building was constructed. However, moving it to the Boy Scout Building appears to be an appropriate alternate location given the feature’s significant associations.

Most of the proposed project is in compliance with Rehabilitation Standard 2. However, because the landscaped spaces and spatial relationships that contribute to the Girl Scout House will be altered, this portion of the proposed project is not fully in compliance with Standard 2.

Rehabilitation Standard 3: *Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historical properties, will not be undertaken.*

Discussion: The proposed project seeks to build a modern museum and zoo complex that does not attempt to copy or use conjectural features related to the rustic cabin style of the Girl Scout House or the Spanish Colonial Revival style of the Lucie Stern Community Center.

Therefore, the proposed project is in compliance with Rehabilitation Standard 3.

Rehabilitation Standard 4: *Changes to a property that have acquired significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.*

Discussion: As designed, the proposed project would not affect any changes to the Lucie Stern Community Center site and the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House site that have acquired historic significance in their own right. Some changes have taken place since the Girl Scout House was constructed—in particular, it was moved to its current location 10 years after it was constructed. No changes have been made to the Community Center that have acquired significance in their own right, although newer additions to the Children’s Theater and Children’s Library are compatible with the historic buildings and are included within the historic site.

While the majority of the proposed project does not affect any elements that have acquired significance in their own right, the northeast portion of the proposed reconfigured parking lot does affect the “front yard” setting and relationship between the Girl Scout House and bird bath. While most of the project is in compliance with Standard 4, this aspect of the proposed project does not fully comply with Standard 4.

Rehabilitation Standard 5: *Distinctive materials, features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.*

Discussion: As proposed, the project would not directly alter the historic buildings at Rinconada Park. All distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques will be preserved.

Therefore, the proposed project is in compliance with Rehabilitation Standard 5.

Rehabilitation Standard 6: *Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.*

Discussion: As designed, the proposed project does not involve replacement of deteriorated or missing features at either the Lucie Stern Community Center or the Girl Scout House.

Therefore, the proposed project is in compliance with Rehabilitation Standard 6.

Rehabilitation Standard 7: *Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.*

Discussion: As designed, the proposed project does not introduce chemical or physical at either the Lucie Stern Community Center or the Girl Scout House. Therefore, the proposed project is in compliance with Rehabilitation Standard 7.

Rehabilitation Standard 8: *Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measure will be undertaken.*

Discussion: If any archaeological material is encountered during this project, construction should be halted and the City of Palo Alto's standard procedures for treatment of archeological materials should be adhered to. If standard procedures are followed in the case of an encounter with archaeological material, the proposed project will be in compliance with Rehabilitation Standard 8.

Rehabilitation Standard 9: *New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and environment.*

Discussion: As discussed in Standard 2, the proposed project would demolish the existing non-historic JMZ and construct a new building in its place. The new construction would not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the historic Lucie Stern Community Center site or the Girl Scout House site.

The new building would be distinctly of its time, but would be compatible with the nearby Girl Scout House in the use of vertical wood siding, wood slats on steel frames at the primary entrance, and wood slat ceilings under the eaves. The color palette would use earth tones of natural wood, dark red and gray standing metal seam roofs, and brownish lithocrete on the site wall that are compatible with the brown-painted wood Girl Scout House and the clay tile roofs of the Lucie Stern Community Center buildings. The proposed design for the new JMZ also takes a cue from the Lucie Stern Community Center courtyards in the use of a U-shaped building that wraps around a central courtyard. It references both the Community Center and the Girl Scout House in its use of cross-gable roofs with pronounced end gables.

At the north end of the JMZ site, a one-story wall would enclose an outdoor classroom and the "Loose in the Zoo" enclosure would be 36'-0" in height. The wall and netted enclosure would be separated from the Girl Scout House by the park arrival plaza and walkway, and would not affect the integrity of the Girl Scout House.

As mentioned previously, the proposed parking lot redesign would not affect the Lucie Stern Community Center, but would have some effect on the integrity of the Girl Scout House's environment.

Therefore, the proposed project is partially in compliance with Rehabilitation Standard 9.

Rehabilitation Standard 10: *New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

Discussion: If the proposed new JMZ and parking lot improvements were hypothetically removed in the future, the Lucie Stern Community Center site would be unimpaired. The landscape/hardscape at the primary façade of the Girl Scout House would remain altered, affecting the form and integrity of the building's environment to an extent, but the bird bath could be moved back to reintroduce the relationship between the object and building.

Overall, the project would be in compliance with Rehabilitation Standard 10.

ANALYSIS OF PROJECT-SPECIFIC IMPACTS UNDER CEQA

As the above analysis demonstrates, the proposed project as currently designed will comply fully with six Standards (1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8) and will partially comply with four Standards (2, 4, 9, and 10). The partial compliance for all four Standards relates to the changes proposed to the parking lot in front of the Girl Scout House. According to Section 15126.4(b)(1) of the Public Resources Code (CEQA), if a project complies with the Standards, the project's impact "will generally be considered mitigated below a level of significance and thus is not significant." Because the proposed JMZ project at Rinconada Park does not comply with all of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*, further analysis is required.

While the proposed project includes removal of some landscape features, particularly at the "front yard" of the Girl Scout House, the significance of the historic building (California Register Criteria 1 and 2) would continue to be represented through the building. The building's T-shaped form, board-and-batten siding, multi-lite wood sash windows, solid and board-and-batten wood doors, stone chimney, and cross-gable roof would not be altered and would continue to physically convey the building's significance. The bird bath would be moved within the park to the Boy Scout Building. This is an appropriate treatment for the bird bath. Overall the project maintains sufficient historic character for the Girl Scout House to continue to convey its historic significance, which justifies its eligibility for listing in the California Register. Thus, the JMZ project does not cause a significant impact to historic resources at Rinconada Park.

ANALYSIS OF LONG RANGE PLAN PROGRAM-LEVEL IMPACTS UNDER CEQA

As the two identified historic resources at Rinconada Park are located adjacent to the JMZ project, the scope of the Long Range Plan across the remainder of the park has limited effect on the Lucie Stern Community Center and the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House. Alterations would be made to the picnic area behind the Girl Scout House in order to add a fire pit, moving the group picnic area to the southeast corner of the building. The Children's Play Area would also be altered to incorporate an older children's play area, a shared tot play area, and adult exercise area. In general, these changes retain the general uses that currently exist on the east side of the Girl Scout House. A number of trees will remain in the vicinity, so that the Girl Scout House retains its rustic "woodsy" setting. Overall, the LRP maintains the historic character of the Girl Scout House and its environment, which justifies its eligibility for listing in the California Register. Thus, the LRP does not cause a significance adverse impact to historic resources at Rinconada Park.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQA defines cumulative impacts as follows:

"Cumulative impacts" refers to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

- a) The individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects.
- b) The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future

projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time.¹⁰³

The JMZ project and the LRP together comprise potential cumulative impacts. No other new construction is anticipated at the site for the foreseeable future. The JMZ project and LRP, in combination with recently completed projects, do not compound or increase environmental impacts. Overall, the proposed project does not appear to contribute to any cumulative impact as defined by CEQA.

¹⁰³ CEQA Guidelines, Article 20, subsection 15355.

VII. CONCLUSION

Rinconada Park was the second public park developed in the City of Palo Alto. Originally formed from the conversion of a waterworks tank to a swimming pool in 1922, the park developed over time through a number of construction projects and landscape design plans. Major projects took place in 1936-40 to build the Lucie Stern Community Center; 1938-40 to build an adult lap pool; 1957-59 to redesign a number of features at the park and construct a new pool building; 1967-68 to redesign the northeast corner of the park; and 1997-99 to replace playground equipment, install a new children's wading pool, and construct an outdoor stage for the Children's Theater.

The park in its entirety was not found to be eligible for listing in the California Register under any criteria. However, the Lucie Stern Community Center complex site (including the Lucie Stern Community Center, Children's Library, as well as the landscaping surrounding that complex—lawn, brick walkways, and turn-around driveway at Middlefield and Melville; two landscaped courtyards; and the Secret Garden) was found significant under California Register Criterion 1 for its role in providing community gathering spaces and amenities, Criterion 2 in association with benefactors Lucie and Ruth Stern, and Criterion 3 for its Spanish Colonial Revival style buildings and integrated landscape design. The Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House site was found significant under Criterion 1 for its early role in scouting and Criterion 2 in association with Lou Henry Hoover.

For these reasons, the Lucie Stern Community Center complex site and the Lou Henry Hoover Girl Scout House site at Rinconada Park qualify as historic resources for the purposes of review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

A proposed project for new construction at the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo was evaluated according to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. The proposed project was determined not to fully comply with all of the Standards, due to changes to landscape features that contribute to the Girl Scout House. Nevertheless, the project does not appear to cause a significant impact on the Girl Scout House according to CEQA. Likewise, the Rinconada Long Range Plan does not cause any impacts to historic resources at the park, and there are no identified cumulative impacts to historic resources.

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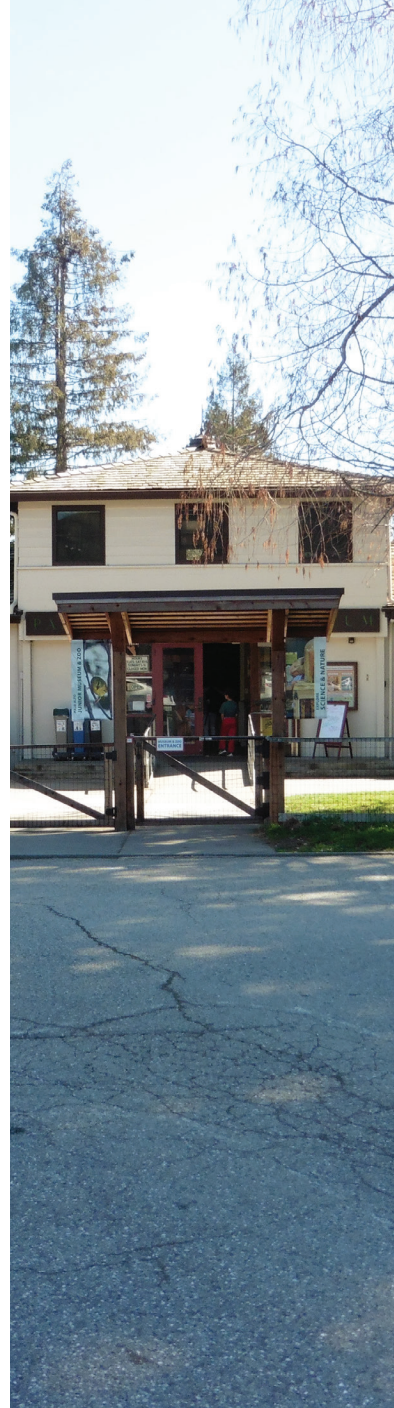
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
SUMMARY OF DETERMINATION	2
METHODOLOGY	2
II. CURRENT HISTORIC STATUS	3
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	3
CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES	3
CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE STATUS CODE	3
PALO ALTO HISTORIC INVENTORY	3
HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT (2004).....	4
III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION	5
SITE.....	5
EXTERIOR	6
INTERIOR.....	12
OUTDOOR ZOO	13
SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD.....	14
IV. HISTORIC CONTEXT	16
PALO ALTO HISTORY	16
HISTORY OF JUNIOR MUSEUMS IN THE UNITED STATES	19
PALO ALTO JUNIOR MUSEUM AND ZOO	20
CONSTRUCTION CHRONOLOGY	22
OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS.....	28
ORIGINAL ARCHITECT & BUILDER.....	28
V. EVALUATION.....	30
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES & CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES	30
INTEGRITY	32
SUMMARY OF EVALUATION.....	33
VII. CONCLUSION	34
VIII. REFERENCES CITED.....	35
PUBLISHED WORKS	35
PUBLIC RECORDS	35
NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS	35
INTERNET SOURCES.....	36

I. INTRODUCTION

This Historic Resource Evaluation (HRE) Part 1 has been prepared at the request of David J. Powers & Associates for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo in Palo Alto. The building was constructed in 1941 and is located within Rinconada Park on the north side of Middlefield Road (**Figure 1 and Figure 2**). The property is officially addressed at 1451 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, California 94301 (APN 003-46-006).

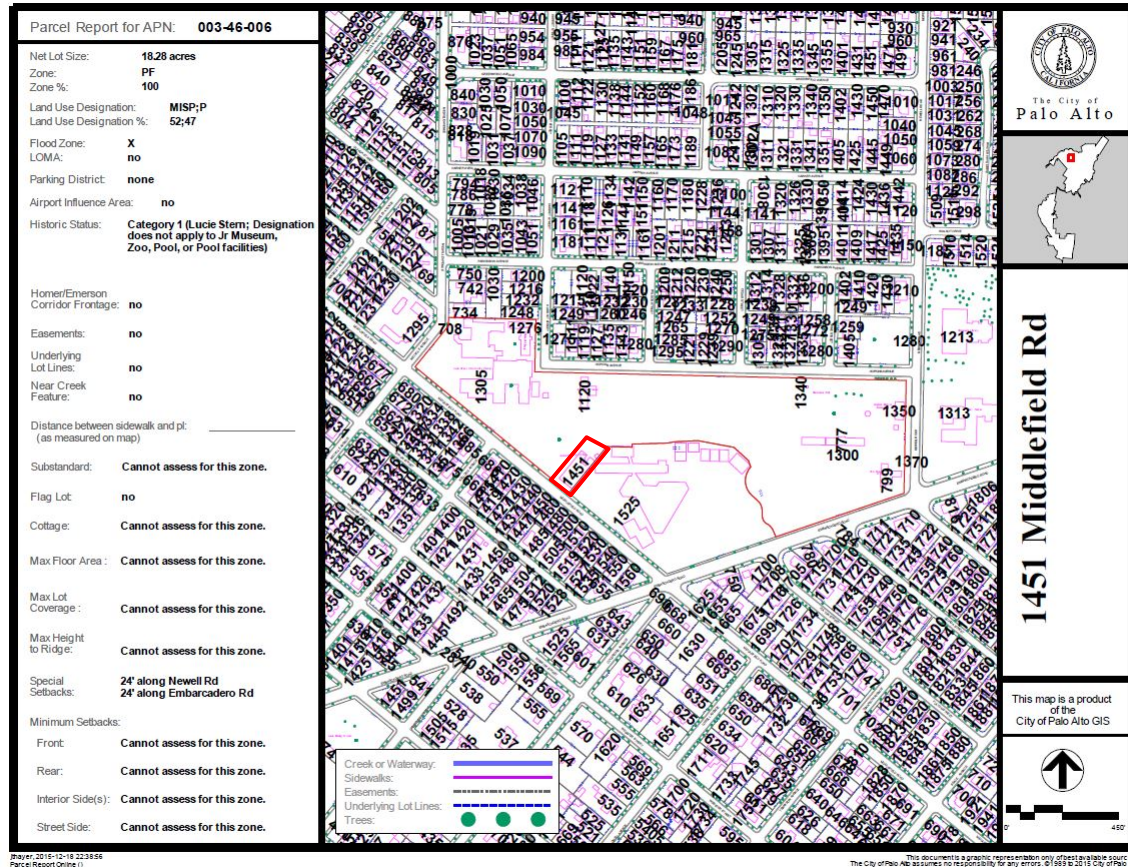


Figure 1. Parcel map of Rinconada Park and 1451 Middlefield Avenue (outlined in red).

Source: City of Palo Alto Online Parcel Reports, 2016; edited by Page & Turnbull.

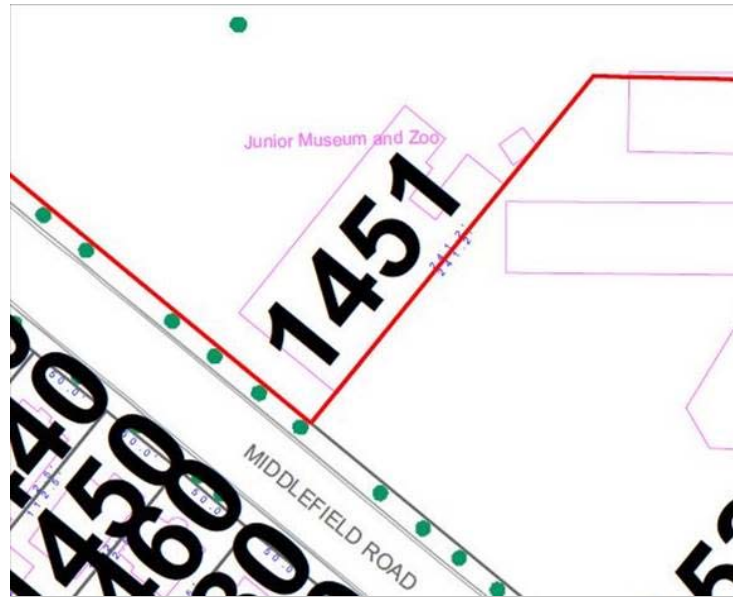


Figure 2. Detail of subject parcel map showing the current footprint of 1451 Middlefield Road in pink.
Source: City of Palo Alto Online Parcel Reports, 2016; edited by Page & Turnbull.

SUMMARY OF DETERMINATION

Constructed in 1941, the building at 1451 Middlefield Road has continually housed the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo. The institution of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo was founded in 1934 and belongs to a nation-wide pattern of children's museums established in the early 20th century. The building at 1451 Middlefield Road has undergone significant alterations over its history and the building has been found not to be eligible for listing the National Register or California Registers under any criteria.

METHODOLOGY

This Historic Resource Evaluation, Part 1 provides a summary of previous historical surveys and ratings, a site description, historic context statement, and an evaluation of the property's individual eligibility for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources and the National Register of Historic Places. This report discusses the institutional history of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo as well as the physical history of the building at 1451 Middlefield Road which was constructed to house the museum in 1941.

Page & Turnbull prepared this report using research collected at various local repositories, including the Palo Alto Public Library, Palo Alto Historical Association, City of Palo Alto Planning and Community Environment Department, Online Archive of California, and various other online sources. Information from Page & Turnbull's previous historical assessment in 2004 also informed this report. Page & Turnbull conducted a site visit in February 2016 to review the existing conditions of the property and formulate the descriptions and assessments included in this report. All photographs were taken by Page & Turnbull in February 2016 unless otherwise noted.

II. CURRENT HISTORIC STATUS

The following section examines the national, state, and local historical ratings currently assigned to the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building at 1451 Middlefield Road.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places (National Register) is the nation's most comprehensive inventory of historic resources. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service and includes buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state, or local level.

1451 Middlefield Road is not currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places individually or as part of a registered historic district.

CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is an inventory of significant architectural, archaeological, and historical resources in the State of California. Resources can be listed in the California Register through a number of methods. State Historical Landmarks and National Register-listed properties are automatically listed in the California Register. Properties can also be nominated to the California Register by local governments, private organizations, or citizens. The evaluative criteria used by the California Register for determining eligibility are closely based on those developed by the National Park Service for the National Register of Historic Places.

1451 Middlefield Road is not currently listed in the California Register of Historical Resources individually or as part of a registered historic district.

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE STATUS CODE

Properties listed by, or under review by, the State of California Office of Historic Preservation are assigned a California Historical Resource Status Code (Status Code) between "1" and "7" to establish their historical significance in relation to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register or NR) or California Register of Historical Resources (California Register or CR). Properties with a Status Code of "1" or "2" are either eligible for listing in the California Register or the National Register, or are already listed in one or both of the registers. Properties assigned Status Codes of "3" or "4" appear to be eligible for listing in either register, but normally require more research to support this rating. Properties assigned a Status Code of "5" have typically been determined to be locally significant or to have contextual importance. Properties with a Status Code of "6" are not eligible for listing in either register. Finally, a Status Code of "7" means that the resource either has not been evaluated for the National Register or the California Register, or needs reevaluation.

1451 Middlefield Road is not listed in the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) database with a status code. The most recent update to the CHRIS database for Santa Clara County that lists the Status Codes was in April 2012.

PALO ALTO HISTORIC INVENTORY

The City of Palo Alto's Historic Inventory lists noteworthy examples of the work of important individual designers and architectural eras and traditions as well as structures whose background is associated with important events in the history of the city, state, or nation. The inventory is organized under the following four Categories:

- **Category 1:** An “Exceptional Building” of pre-eminent national or state importance. These buildings are meritorious works of the best architects, outstanding examples of a specific architectural style, or illustrate stylistic development of architecture in the United States. These buildings have had either no exterior modifications or such minor ones that the overall appearance of the building is in its original character.
- **Category 2:** A “Major Building” of regional importance. These buildings are meritorious works of the best architects, outstanding examples of an architectural style, or illustrate stylistic development of architecture in the state or region. A major building may have some exterior modifications, but the original character is retained.
- **Category 3 or 4:** A “Contributing Building” which is a good local example of an architectural style and relates to the character of a neighborhood grouping in scale, materials, proportion or other factors. A contributing building may have had extensive or permanent changes made to the original design, such as inappropriate additions, extensive removal of architectural details, or wooden facades resurfaced in asbestos or stucco.

1451 Middlefield Road is not currently listed in the Palo Alto Historic Inventory under any category. The subject parcel, which encompasses all of Rinconada Park, is designated in City of Palo Alto records as a Category 1 property because of the Lucie Stern Community Center. The Category 1 designation does not apply to any other building or facility within the park.

HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT (2004)

In 2003, Page & Turnbull conducted a historical assessment of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo facility as part of the Conservation Assessment Program grant awarded by Heritage Preservation. The purpose of the report was to evaluate the potential architectural and historical significance of 1451 Middlefield Road and to evaluate whether or not the building contributed to the significance of the adjacent Lucie Stern Community Center.

Page & Turnbull’s report included a building description, brief history of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, and a preliminary assessment of the building’s individual and contributing significance. The report concluded that the building at 1451 Middlefield Road does not appear to be individually eligible for listing in a local, state, or national register, and that the building does not contribute to the significance of the Lucie Stern Cultural Center. The report also indicated that in the event of a proposed project at the site, the building’s significance under National and California register Criterion A/1 (events) should be further investigated.

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SITE

The building at 1451 Middlefield Road, which houses the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, stands along the southwest edge of Rinconada Park, an 18,257-acre parcel in the Community Center neighborhood (**Figure 3**). A large surface parking lot separates the building from the Lucie Stern Community Center and the Girl Scout Hall. A wood-post and wire fence encloses a lawn, open “science yard” used for activities, and covered sitting area near the primary entrance at the northwest side of the building. The outdoor zoo is located northeast of the museum building. A tall wood slat fence surrounds the zoo area and animal enclosures, separating it from the parking lot and nearby playground.

Originally constructed in 1941, the one-and-two-story building was designed in a vernacular Ranch style. The wood frame building sits on a concrete foundation and occupies approximately 7,051 square feet. The walls are clad in textured stucco. The building is composed of a U-shaped arrangement of two main volumes with central, connecting hyphens. The northwest and southeast volumes have side-gabled roofs. A two-story tower capped with a hipped roof is located within the northwest volume. Between the building’s two main volumes is an enclosed courtyard with a flat roof. The gable and hipped roofs are clad with wood shakes and the central flat roof is covered with built-up roofing.



Figure 3. Aerial photograph of 1451 Middlefield Road, the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo (outlined in red). North is up. Source: Google Maps, 2016; edited by Page & Turnbull.

EXTERIOR

Primary (Northwest) Façade

The primary façade faces northwest onto a small lawn and a parking lot. The façade is composed of two one-story, side-gabled wings extending from the two-story tower, all a part of the northwest volume (**Figure 4**). The north (left) wing contains a band of three wood-frame sliding windows, set within the upper portion of the wall (**Figure 5**).

The two-story tower contains the building's primary entrance at center, accessed by a wide concrete landing with stairs and a ramp. A fully glazed, wood-frame double door leads into the entrance lobby. The door is flanked by two-lite fixed wood-frame sidelights. Two square stucco-clad posts are located on either side of two-story ground floor. The second story of the tower projects slightly from the main plane of the façade. The lower half is clad in flush horizontal wood siding and features a full-width wood sign reading "Palo Alto Junior Museum." The upper half is clad in wood lap siding and contains three double-hung wood-frame windows with wood-frame screens. A metal spire sits at the peak of the hipped roof (**Figure 6**).

The south (right) wing is approximately twice the length of the north wing. The left portion of the wing contains a bay of seven almost full-height fixed wood windows. The eighth bay contains a solid wood door with fixed transom (**Figure 7 and Figure 8**). Right of these windows is a band of three wood-frame sliding windows, set in the upper portion of the wall, and a solid wood door with fixed transom (**Figure 9**).

This façade terminates in overhanging roof eaves with exposed rafter tails, simple fascia, and metal gutters.



Figure 4. Primary (northwest) façade of 1451 Middlefield Road, view looking southeast.



Figure 5. Windows at the north wing of the primary façade, view looking northeast.



Figure 6. Two-story tower and primary entrance at primary façade, view looking southeast.



Figure 7. South wing of primary façade, view looking southwest.



Figure 8. Detail view of window bay at south wing of primary faced, view looking northeast.



Figure 9. Southernmost portion of the south wing at primary façade, view looking southeast.

Southwest Façade

The southwest façade faces Middlefield Avenue and a lawn with a large hedge (**Figure 10**). The west (left) portion of the façade, part of the northwest volume, contains no fenestration and terminates in an end gable (**Figure 11**). A small wood vent is located below the gable peak. At center is a connecting hyphen that features a side-gabled roof, which contains paired solid wood doors with

metal vents. Above this entrance is a band of five windows. The fixed wood-frame transom window above the entrance is flanked by metal-frame awning windows (**Figure 12**). The east (right) portion of the façade, part of the southeast volume, contains one wood door east of center accessed by a low concrete landing, and a wood vent below the gable peak. This portion of the façade terminates in an end gable, similar to the west portion of the façade (**Figure 13**). The entire southwest façade has a wide overhanging roof eave, which features exposed rafter tails and a simple fascia.



Figure 10. Southwest façade, view looking northeast across Middlefield Road.



Figure 11. Left portion of the southwest façade, view looking northeast.



Figure 12. Connecting hyphen, wood double doors, and band of windows, view looking northeast.



Figure 13. Right portion of the southwest façade, view looking northeast.

Rear (Southeast) Façade

The rear (southeast) façade faces the paved parking lot of the adjacent Walter Hayes Elementary School. This façade of the one-story southeast volume contains no fenestration (**Figure 14** and **Figure 15**). A continuous side gable extends the full width of the façade. The north portion of this volume is an addition that features a slightly taller gable roof. The gable peaks of the two roofs are parallel but off-set by a few feet (**Figure 16**). The shallow roof eave at the rear façade contains a simple stucco soffit and metal gutter. Several full-height vertical cracks were observed in the stucco.

The second story of the two-story tower contains two wood-frame double-hung windows on its southeast façade. Vents and ductwork on the roof are visible at this façade between the two windows (Figure 17).



Figure 14. Southeast façade, view looking northwest from the adjacent school parking lot.



Figure 15. Southeast façade, view looking northeast.



Figure 16. Taller gable-roof addition at the north portion of the façade, view looking northwest.



Figure 17. Southeast façade of the two-story tower, view looking northwest. Double-hung windows and mechanical equipment are just visible.

Northeast Façade

The northeast façade faces the outdoor zoo and exhibit area. This façade features the northwest and southeast volumes, as well as a recessed center portion and an L-shaped patio (Figure 18 and Figure 19). The northeast façade of the southeast (left) volume contains a single wood door and a small wood vent below the gable peak. The rafter tails on the northeast façade have been removed from the overhanging roof eave. The inner northwest façade of the southeast volume has a band of four wood-frame awning windows and three large fixed wood-frame windows further south (Figure 20 and Figure 21). An open trellis overhang extends from the shallow roof eave of the northwest façade. This volume's inner southwest façade contains one wood door (Figure 22).

The center portion of the northeast façade contains the entrance to the museum space and the enclosed courtyard. It features a five-bay bank of full-height wood-frame windows, flanked by single wood doors in the outer bays. A wood-slat bee enclosure projects from center. This portion of the façade terminates in a side-gabled roof, obscured by a wood trellis and partially open roof sheltering the patio (Figure 23-Figure 26).

The northwest (right) volume (the north wing from the primary facade) features several embedded display cases, set low in the wall to be at a child's eye level and with wide sills containing interpretive panels. The inner southeast facade contains three display cases and a solid wood door (**Figure 19 and Figure 26**). Display cases are wood frame with a metal lip along the upper edge. The northeast facade of this volume contains two display cases, a solid wood door accessed by a concrete ramp, and one fixed wood-frame window (**Figure 27 and Figure 28**).



Figure 18. Northeast facade of the Junior Museum, view looking southwest from the zoo area.



Figure 19. L-shaped patio at center of northeast facade, view looking southwest.



Figure 20. Awning windows at the inner northwest facade of the southeast volume, view looking southeast.



Figure 21. Wood windows at the inner northwest façade of the southeast volume further south, view looking southeast from patio.



Figure 22. Inner southwest façade of the southeast volume, view looking northeast from the L-shaped patio.



Figure 23. L-shaped patio, bee-enclosure, and bank of windows at center portion of northeast façade, view looking south.



Figure 24. Wood door left of bee enclosure, view looking southwest.



Figure 25. Windows and entrance at northeast façade, view looking northeast from museum interior.



Figure 26. Entrance to museum interior at northeast façade, view looking southwest.



Figure 27. Northeast façade of northwest volume, containing display cases, wood door (shown while open), and fixed wood window, view looking southwest.



Figure 28. Detail view of low display cases, view looking southwest.

INTERIOR

The central interior space of the museum is the enclosed courtyard at the center of the building (**Figure 29**). The perimeter of the enclosed courtyard has an angled plaster ceiling, while the center portion is raised and features exposed beams. Classrooms, storage, and staff rooms are located along the southeast and southwest sides of the building. The northwest portion of the interior contains an open exhibit room, lobby at the ground floor of the two-story tower, and staff room in the north wing. The second story contains offices.



Figure 29. Enclosed courtyard interior exhibit space, view looking southwest.

OUTDOOR ZOO

The outdoor zoo area is located northeast of the museum building (**Figure 30-Figure 33**). Surrounded by a wood-slat fence, the zoo is a collection of enclosures arranged around a pond. Landscaping surrounds the concrete-basin, which features an arched wooden bridge. The northwest side of the zoo contains four polygonal concrete enclosures. Three are capped with hipped conical roofs that are clad in wood shake, while the raccoon enclosure is covered by large wood beams. Some enclosures are clad with stucco while others are exposed rough-faced concrete masonry units (CMU). The enclosures contains both wood frame and metal frame windows. A raised concrete fountain and a concrete tortoise enclosure are located in the north portion of the zoo. The southeast side of the zoo contains a bobcat enclosure with a CMU viewing area and wood post fence, as well as a wood-framed and screened aviary.



Figure 30. Zoo area with pond and bridge at center, view looking north.



Figure 31. Enclosures at northwest side of the zoo, view looking west.



Figure 32. Raccoon enclosure and fountain at northern portion of zoo, view looking northwest.



Figure 33. Bobcat enclosure at southeast side of zoo, view looking northeast.

SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo is located in the Community Center neighborhood, which is bounded by Middlefield Road to the west, Channing Avenue to the north, Newell Road to the east, and Embarcadero Road to the south. The neighborhood is characterized by the large open space of Rinconada Park in the southern portion, and single-family residential buildings in the northern portion. The Walter Hayes Elementary School is adjacent to and southeast of the subject property (**Figure 34**). The Lucie Stern Community Center is located northwest across the surface parking lot and the Girl Scout Hall is northeast of the subject building (**Figure 35**). Construction of the Spanish Colonial-style Community Center was completed in 1940, and the log cabin-style Girl Scout Hall was opened several years before, in 1926. The remainder of Rinconada Park is open lawn and contains a children's playground (**Figure 35**). Residences across Middlefield Road are one- and two-story English Revival, Mission Revival, and contemporary styles, and were constructed from the mid-1920s through the 2000s (**Figure 37**).



Figure 34. Walter Hayes Elementary School, view looking northeast from Middlefield Road.



Figure 35. Rear façade of the Community Center, across parking lot from the Junior Museum and Zoo, view looking northwest.



Figure 36. Open space of Rinconada Park, view looking north.



Figure 37. Residence across Middlefield Road, view looking southwest from the museum.

IV. HISTORIC CONTEXT

PALO ALTO HISTORY

The earliest known settlement of the Palo Alto area was by the Ohlone people. The region was colonized by Gaspar de Portola in 1769 as part of Alto California. The Spanish and Mexican governments carved the area into large ranchos, and the land that would become Palo Alto belonged to several, including Rancho Corte Madera, Rancho Pastoria de las Borregas, Rancho Rincon de San Francisquito, and Rancho Riconada del Arroyo de San Francisquito.¹ The subject property at 1451 Middlefield Road was located on what was formerly Rancho Riconada del Arroyo de San Francisquito, and, at more than 2,200 acres, covered all of the original Palo Alto town site. The northern and eastern boundaries were distinguished by San Francisquito Creek, while the western boundary was located near El Camino Real and the southern boundary paralleled Embarcadero Road farther south.² These land grants were honored in the cession of California to the United States, but parcels were subdivided and sold throughout the nineteenth century.

The current city of Palo Alto contains the former township of Mayfield. In 1882, railroad magnate and California politician Leland Stanford purchased 1,000 acres adjacent to Mayfield to add to his larger estate. Stanford's vast holdings became known as the Palo Alto Stock Farm. The Stanfords' teenage son died in 1884, leading the couple to create a university in his honor. Contrary to contemporary institutions, the Stanfords wanted a co-educational and non-denominational university.³ On March 9, 1885, the university was founded through an endowment act by the California Assembly and Senate. Using the Stock Farm land, they established Stanford University

In 1886, Stanford went to Mayfield where he was interested in founding his university since the school needed a nearby service town to support its operations. However, the Stanfords required alcohol to be banned from the town because they believed that the university's mission and community would be negatively impacted by any nearby presence of alcohol.⁴ With 13 popular saloons then operating in Mayfield, the town eventually rejected the Stanfords' request. Seeking an alternative, Stanford decided in 1894 to found the town of Palo Alto with aid from his friend Timothy Hopkins of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Hopkins purchased and subdivided 740 acres of private land.⁵ Known as both the Hopkins Tract and University Park, it was bounded by the San Francisquito Creek to the north and the railroad tracks and Stanford University campus to the south (**Figure 38**). The subject property of 1451 Middlefield Road was located at the northern edge of the first platted portion of Palo Alto.

¹ "Palo Alto, California," Wikipedia, accessed December 22, 2014, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palo_Alto,_California#cite_note-12.

² Ward Winslow and the Palo Alto Historical Association, *Palo Alto: A Centennial History* (Palo Alto Historical Association: Palo Alto, CA, 1993), 16-17.

³ "History of Stanford," Stanford University, accessed December 22, 2014, <http://www.stanford.edu/about/history/>.

⁴ "A Flash History of Palo Alto," Quora, accessed December 22, 2014, <http://www.quora.com/How-is-the-historical-city-Mayfield-CA-related-to-Palo-Alto-CA>

⁵ "Comprehensive Plan," City of Palo Alto, section L-3.

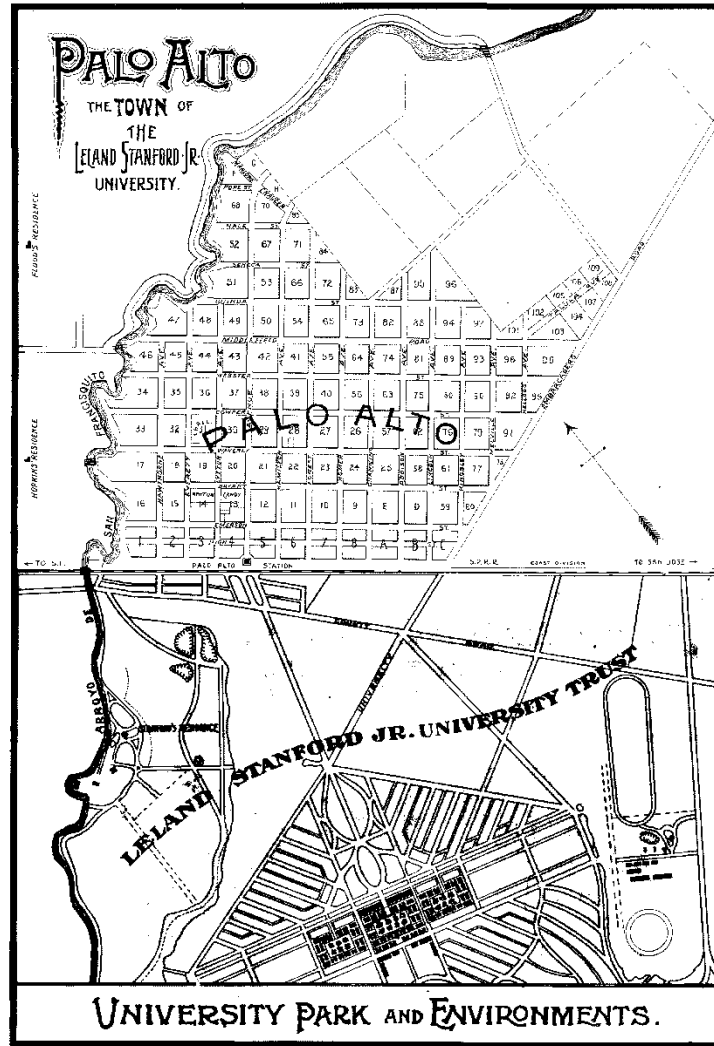


Figure 38. Map of the original town of Palo Alto.

Source: Branner Earth Sciences Library and Map Collections, Stanford University.

Palo Alto was a temperance town where no alcohol could be served. A new train stop was created along University Avenue and the new town flourished serving the university. Palo Alto grew to be much more prosperous than its southeastern neighbor Mayfield. Many people employed at Stanford University chose to move there, and it was considered the safer and more desirable alternative of the two towns.⁶ The residents were mostly middle and working class, with a pocket of University professors clustered in the neighborhood deemed Professorville. The development of a local streetcar in 1906 and the interurban railway to San Jose in 1910 facilitated access to jobs outside the city and to the University, encouraging more people to move to Palo Alto.⁷ In reaction to the decline of Mayfield, its residents voted to become a “dry” town in 1904, with sole exception of allowing the Mayfield Brewery to continue. However, the town was plagued by financial issues and could not compete with Palo Alto’s growth. In July 1925, Mayfield was officially annexed and consolidated into the city of Palo Alto.⁸

⁶ Matt Bowling, “The Meeting on the Corner: The Beginning of Mayfield’s End,” Palo Alto History.com, website accessed 11 June 2013 from: <http://www.paloaltohistory.com/the-beginning-of-mayfields-end.php>.

⁷ Michael Corbett and Denise Bradley, “Palo Alto Historic Survey Update: Final Survey Report,” Dames & Moore, 1-4.

⁸ “A Flash History of Palo Alto,” Quora.

Palo Alto was one of the first California cities to establish a City Planning Commission (CPC). In 1917, zoning matters were tasked to this advisory commission in order to control development and design. Regulations on signage, public landscaping and lighting, and appropriateness within residential areas fell under the purview of the CPC. From this early period, Palo Alto has maintained control over the built environment, which has resulted its relatively low density and consistent aesthetic. However, the zoning controls in the early part of the twentieth century played a part in the racial segregation of the city and the exclusion of certain groups from residential areas. Several neighborhoods were created with race covenants regarding home ownership and occupation, until this practice was ruled unconstitutional in 1948.⁹ The academic nature of the town prevented factories or other big industries from settling in Palo Alto, limiting the range of people who would populate the area.

Like the rest of the nation, Palo Alto suffered through the Great Depression in the 1930s and did not grow substantially. World War II brought an influx of military personnel and their families to the Peninsula. When the war ended, Palo Alto saw rapid growth. Many families who had been stationed on the Peninsula by the military or who worked in associated industries chose to stay, and the baby boom began. Palo Alto's population more than doubled from 16,774 in 1940 to 33,753 in 1953.¹⁰ Stanford University was also a steady attraction for residents and development in the city. The city center greatly expanded in the late 1940s and 1950s (**Figure 39**), gathering parcels that would house new offices and light industrial uses and lead the city away from its "college town" reputation.¹¹

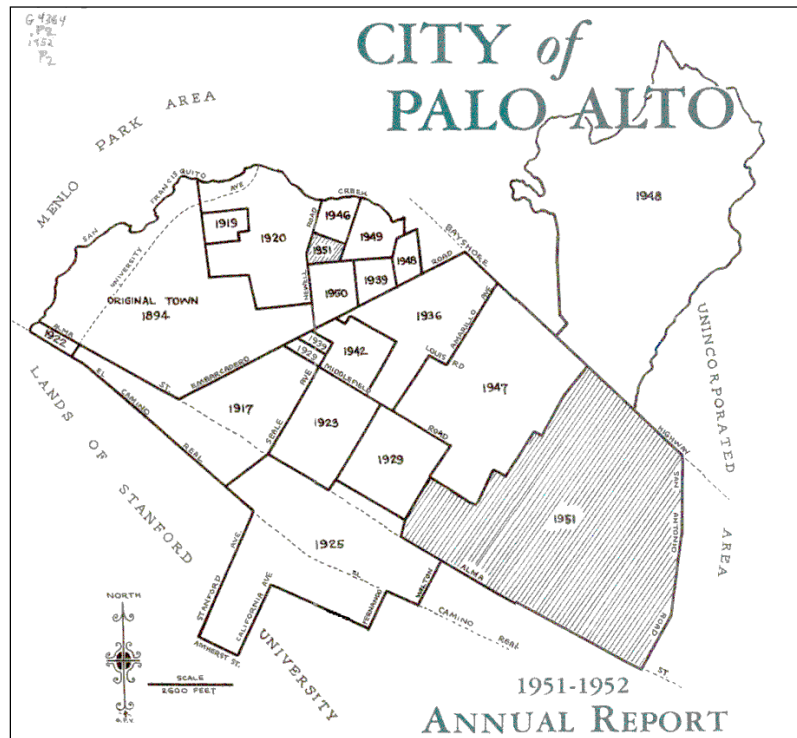


Figure 39. The expansion of Palo Alto from 1894 to 1952.

Source: Branner Earth Sciences Library and Map Collections, Stanford University.

⁹ Corbett and Bradley, "Palo Alto Historic Survey Update," 1-7.

¹⁰ "Depression, War, and the Population Boom," Palo Alto Medical Foundation- Sutter Health, website accessed 11 June 2013 from: <http://www.pamf.org/about/pamfhistory/depression.html>.

¹¹ "Comprehensive Plan," section L-4.

Palo Alto annexed a vast area of mostly undeveloped land between 1959 and 1968. This area, west of the Foothill Expressway, has remained protected open space. Small annexations continued into the 1970s, contributing to the discontinuous footprint of the city today. Palo Alto remains closely tied to Stanford University; it is the largest employer in the city. The technology industry dominates other sectors of business, as is the case with most cities within Silicon Valley. Palo Alto consciously maintains its high proportion of open space to development and the suburban feeling and scale of its architecture.

HISTORY OF JUNIOR MUSEUMS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, located at 1451 Middlefield Road, belongs to a nation-wide movement of children's museums focused on nature and science education that began at the turn of the 20th century. The development of museums for children and young adults is underrepresented in museum historiography, partially due to the fact that most institutions evolved out of local motivation. The inherently local nature of these museums thwarts developing a widespread understanding of how many developed and when they were founded. Differences in naming between "children's museums," "junior museums," and nature, science, and "discovery" centers geared towards children also contribute to the lack of a comprehensive history. Some histories draw strict distinctions between these types of institutions while others considered them part of the same movement.¹²

The first children's museum to open was the Brooklyn Children's Museum, established in 1899. Envisioned as a place where children could touch and play with the exhibits, the purpose of the museum was to engage children's imaginations and attention while learning about science and natural history. The museum occupied the historic Adams House, formerly used as a storage building for the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.¹³ The success of the Brooklyn Children's Museum led to the establishment of the Boston Children's Museum in 1913, Detroit Children's Museum in 1917, Children's Museum of Indianapolis in 1925, and several more in the 1920s and 1930s.¹⁴ The Palo Alto Junior Museum opened in 1934 during this early wave of museum popularity.

Having a children's museum separate from traditional museums is noted to be a "particularly American museological phenomenon."¹⁵ Many European and other American museums contented themselves with children's rooms, if they allowed children in at all. Despite this American trend, it was not a wide-spread practice for early institutions. In 1941, it is believed that only eight children's museums occupied their own facility – and not necessarily one constructed for their use.¹⁶ Early museums almost universally made use of large, empty homes and expanded or moved as necessary.

The ideology behind children's museums was not just to educate children, but to inspire them with an institution that they felt was created for them. They were not intruders or barred from

¹² Shannon O'Donnell, "Junior Grows Up: The Development of the Tallahassee Museum, 1957-1992" (Masters thesis, Florida State University, 2009), 6-7; Edward Porter Alexander and Mary Alexander, *Museums in Motion: An Introduction to the History and Fundamentals of Museums* (Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press, 2008), 15, 167; "Palo Alto Community Center: Junior Museum here one of 16 in the entire United States," *Palo Alto Times*, June 22, 1950, 22.

¹³ Edward Porter Alexander, *The Museum in America: Innovators and Pioneers* (Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 1997), 133.

¹⁴ "Timeline," Children's Museum of Indianapolis, accessed February 29, 2016, <http://thehistorychildrensmuseum.org/timeline>; "History," Boston Children's Museum, accessed February 29, 2016, <http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/about/history>.

¹⁵ Thomas Schlereth, quoted by Rebecca Stiles Onion, "Picturing Nature and Childhood at the American Museum of Natural History and the Brooklyn Children's Museum, 1899-1930," *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, 4.3 (2001), 450-451.

¹⁶ Ibid.

participating as they might be at a traditional museum. These institutions provided educational tools outside of regular classrooms during an era of heightened interest in childhood education reform and in the study and appreciation of nature. Museum collections consisted of a range of items and exhibits, including dioramas, fossils, taxidermy, wiring and radio systems, and anything that could be donated or collected from local sources or cast-offs from other museums. They also offered outdoor trips, art classes, lectures, and sometimes classes for adults. In this manner, children's museums fostered an active and continuing community that traditional adult museums lacked.

One figure that looms large in the history of children's museums is John Ripley Forbes. He is credited with establishing over 200 nature centers and science museums for children throughout the United States. From a young age, Forbes was influenced by his neighbor William T. Hornaday, noted naturalist and director of the Bronx Zoo. In the late 1930s, Forbes convinced the city to convert an abandoned mansion and opened his first museum, the Kansas City Museum of History and Science. In 1937, he established the William T. Hornaday Foundation to fund children's museums, which would later become the National Science for Youth Foundation.¹⁷ Forbes' museums had a strong outdoor education component, based on a belief in the benefits of exposing children to nature. During the 1950s, he lived in Sacramento and influenced several institutions throughout California. Forbes died in 2006, and his impact on the children's museum movement is only recently coming to light.¹⁸

During and after World War II, the youth museum movement gained momentum. Science education was placed in a national spotlight by the war, Cold War politics, and the space race. The United States government provided funds for museums, recognizing their education potential and widespread influence.¹⁹ By report of the Association of Children's Museums, by 1975 there were 38 children's museums in the United States. Based on the strict criteria by which the Association defines "children's museum," it is likely that far more youth museums were operating by that time. Other studies postulate that by the 1960s, over 40 children's museums, youth and junior museums were open.²⁰ Today, there are over 200 specifically children's museums in the United States, as well as hundreds of youth-centered education centers.²¹ The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo is not a member of the Association of Children's Museums, which officially lists 33 institutions in California.

PALO ALTO JUNIOR MUSEUM AND ZOO

In the midst of the Great Depression, Palo Alto resident Josephine O'Hara proposed that the community create a small museum to occupy the area's young children. A "leisure time" committee existed for adults, but there were hardly any activities or engagements for children. O'Hara had visited the children's museums in Brooklyn and Boston and decided that a similar institution would appeal to the Palo Alto community. In January 1934, O'Hara presented the idea of a children's museum to the community center commission and the public. A nine-member committee was formed to study the feasibility of such a scheme and to prepare a small exhibition for a spring fair.²²

¹⁷ Margalit Fox, "John Ripley Forbes, 93, Who Planted Many Nature Museums, is Dead," *New York Times*, September 5, 2006, accessed February 24, 2016.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/05/obituaries/05forbes.html>; "Mr. Appleseed," *Time*, December 21, 1953, 65-66.

¹⁸ Gary Ferguson, *Nature's Keeper: John Ripley Forbes and the Children's Nature Movement* (Helena, MT: Sweetgrass Books, 2012).

¹⁹ O'Donnell, "Junior Grows Up," 2009, 12.

²⁰ Herminia Weihsin Din, "An Investigation of Children's Museums in the United States – Their Past, Present, and Future: A Proposed Study," *Marilyn Zurmuehlin Working Papers in Art Education* 15 (1999): 63-69.

²¹ Association of Children's Museums online database, accessed February 29, 2016.
<http://www.childrensmuseums.org/childrens-museums/find-a-childrens-museum/>

²² Phyllis Mackall, "Palo Alto Junior Museum's 25th Year Observed," *Palo Alto Times*, July 16, 1959.

The idea caught immediate public support, and the first iteration of the museum was housed for four months in the art room of the Palo Alto Public Library. In July 1934, the Children's Museum (as it was known then) officially opened. Josephine O'Hara was the curator and 4,342 children visited the museum during its first year.²³ Inspired by the burgeoning children's museum movement on the East Coast, this institution appears to be the first museum of its kind west of the Mississippi River. In November 1934, the museum formalized its board of directors and established a membership program. The exhibits moved from the library into the basement of Sherman Grade School. Constantly growing, the main branch of the museums and its offices were established in the basement underneath a wing of the Community Center in 1937, while some exhibits remained in the school basement for two more years. During these early years the museum staff were partially supported by WPA (Works Progress Administration) and NYA (National Youth Administration) funds, and volunteers were key components of the museum's operation.

This early period from 1934-1940 saw significant growth in the volume of exhibits and items for the collection, as well as popularity among the community. Summer activities were held at the Addison School, outdoor activity and hikes were led by Josephine O'Hara, and temporary exhibits rotated through five local schools. Attendance continued to increase; by 1940, child visitors totaled 12,702.²⁴ Part of the motivation behind the museum was to imbue the children with initiative, interest, and inner resources that would equip them to deal with another economic depression and to be leaders in the future.

In 1941, a gift of \$10,000 was made by the local Margaret Frost Foundation to fund construction of a new facility for the museum. The City of Palo Alto offered a portion of land in Rinconada Park, and the museum found a permanent home. Contemporary reports claim that Palo Alto was the first children's museum to construct its own facility, and research has not uncovered any evidence to the contrary. In order to appeal to young patrons who objected to being called "children," the museum's name was officially changed to the Palo Alto Junior Museum.²⁵

Almost immediately after the building's opening, a \$12,000 grant was awarded to the Museum by the philanthropic Columbia Foundation of San Francisco to build a new science wing. Local newspapers constantly reported new activities of the museum, from new acquisitions or traveling exhibits of Native American baskets or African masks to the meetings of hobby groups that included art, ceramics, archery, woodworking, and stamp collection. During the summer vacation, the museum led at least four activities six days a week, not including the regular collection. The variety of programs offered by the Junior Museum seemed almost endless.²⁶ According to local press, as of June 1950 there were only sixteen children's museums in the United States.²⁷ Given the varied nature of youth museums, their focuses, and their names, it is difficult to know if this was indeed true, but research has not found evidence contradicting this claim.

²³ Gene Hammond, "Children's Museum: First in the United States," *Peninsula Life*, August 1948, 20.

²⁴ "Palo Alto Community Center: Junior Museum here one of 16 in the entire United States," *Palo Alto Times*, June 22, 1950, 22; "Children have place to ride their hobbies," *Palo Alto Times*, March 7, 1941; "Brief History of Formation and Development of the Children's Museum of Palo Alto, Inc.," August 1941, Palo Alto Historical Association.

²⁵ "Junior Museum building will open in October," *Palo Alto Times*, 1941, 8A; Gene Hammond, "Children's Museum: First in the United States," *Peninsula Life*, August 1948, 20; Palo Alto Junior Museum "Golden Anniversary" program, 1984.

²⁶ Verdella Rose, "Youngsters will get lots of sun riding Children's Museum hobbies," *Palo Alto Times*, June 18, 1941.

²⁷ "Palo Alto Community Center: Junior Museum here one of 16 in the entire United States," *Palo Alto Times*, June 22, 1950, 22.

The institution continued to grow in size and popularity, and in 1969, a remodeled and expanded museum opened. The adjoining zoo was opened, creating great excitement about a permanent collection of birds, snakes, raccoons, a bobcat, and even a golden eagle. During the mid-20th century, children's museums all over the country began having live animal collections, zoos, or partnering with wildlife preserves to foster a better appreciation and understanding for animals and the natural world. Economic difficulties for the City of Palo Alto in the 1980s threatened the zoo's continuation.²⁸ The local community rallied to save it, and today the zoo features more than 50 animal species.²⁹ The zoo remains an essential amusement for children today.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo continues to play an active role in the community and is beloved by generations of Palo Alto and San Francisco Bay Area residents. Its mission to educate and engage children in the fields of science, nature, and art remains strong, and over 150,000 people visit the museum each year.³⁰

CONSTRUCTION CHRONOLOGY

The chronology in the following table provides a list of alterations for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo based on available building permits:

Date	Permit #	Architect/Builder	Applicant	Work
1941	None available	Dole Ford Thompson; Aro & Okerman	City of Palo Alto	Original construction of the subject building
1948	84-913	None listed	City of Palo Alto	Front office remodel: create new lobby office and remove existing doors at back wall
4/12/1968	27421	GMI Construction	City of Palo Alto	Construction of addition and remodeling of museum building
6/21/1968	16853	Stanford Electric	City of Palo Alto	Electrical work
6/26/1968	11569	GMI Construction	City of Palo Alto	Installation of "electrical apparatus"
6/13/1975	4026	Menlo Oaks Plumbing	City of Palo Alto	Plumbing work
6/10/1983	83-450	None listed	City of Palo Alto	Remove interior pocket doors and replaced with hinge types
4/13/1987	87-758	City of Palo Alto Facilities Management	City of Palo Alto	Renovations to enclosures at northwest side of zoo, including new cut-faced block wall cladding and wire partitions

²⁸ Paul Gullixson, "A plan to save children's zoo in Palo Alto," *Palo Alto Times*, June 10, 1988, A-1.

²⁹ "About the Junior Museum and Zoo," City of Palo Alto, accessed February 20, 2016.
<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/jmz/>

³⁰ Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, "The JMZ Initiative," 5.

Date	Permit #	Architect/Builder	Applicant	Work
7/6/1988	89-858	City of Palo Alto Facilities Management	City of Palo Alto	New trellis canopy at northeast façade entrance
1/17/1992	92-467	None listed	City of Palo Alto	Installation of door at raccoon cage
12/6/1994	94-3253	Ernie Erickson	City of Palo Alto	Install ADA hardware, accessible threshold and stair hardware
8/21/1996	96-2661	CSS Associates	City of Palo Alto	Install door hardware, landing, and ramp hardware (presumed to be at primary façade)
12/9/1996	96-3837	Hugo Estrada	City of Palo Alto	Install two water heaters and new electrical outlets
1996	96-3817	Z. Johnson	City of Palo Alto	Unspecified plumbing and electrical work
2/5/1999	99-315	Salas O'Brien Engineers	City of Palo Alto	Install new fluorescent strip lighting in exhibit hall (enclosed courtyard)
4/13/2001	01-0923	Hugo Estrada; Gidel & Rocal	City of Palo Alto	Conversion of storage room at southwest side of building into classroom; Some demolition of non-bearing interior walls, electrical work, and removal of kiln hood in ceramic kiln room
6/13/2002	02-1567	Lehrman Cameron Studio		Renovation of bat habitat: new CMU wall and new wood-frame viewing area
10/26/2009	09-2342	Devcon	Friends of Palo Alto Junior Museum	Partial demolition of CMU wall at aviary to build new bobcat enclosure, relocate aviary, relocate coastal stream display
10/26/2009	09-2343	Devcon	Friends of Palo Alto Junior Museum	Construction of new bobcat enclosure at southeast side of zoo

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building was originally designed and constructed in 1941 by architect Dole Ford Thompson and builders Aro & Okerman. No original building permit was available. The design was a symmetrical arrangement of two one-story wings extending north and south from a two-story tower (**Figures 40-42**). The central tower contained a foyer, offices, and storage, while the north wing held a workroom and the south wing contained the museum and exhibits. Each wing contained four sliding windows on the northwest façade. The ground floor entrance was recessed

below the second story of the tower, with large wood posts at the entrance and a fully glazed double wood with no sidelights. Two windows flanked the entrance.³¹

A new science building (the current southeast volume) was completed in 1943 as a separate gable-roofed, wood-frame volume southeast of the main building. The buildings were connected by a patio for outdoor activities. In 1944, a glass-enclosed nature studio was constructed between the northwest and southeast volumes, creating a U-shaped floorplan (**Figure 43**). In 1955, two rooms were added to the southeast volume.³² In 1956, an addition by architect Harold Ahnfeldt extended the south wing of the main building towards Middlefield Road. Today, the south wing of the primary façade has been extended by approximately twice its original length. Throughout the 1950s several other changes occurred to reconfigure the connection of the different volumes and enclose the courtyard (**Figure 44**).³³

Between 1968 and 1969, the museum underwent a comprehensive remodeling and expansion. Classroom and workspaces, including a kiln room, were remodeled. Roof repairs were also completed. The outdoor zoo was added as part of the institution's expansion. The zoo has remained largely unchanged except for the material and shape of the some of the enclosures. The expansion was completed by architect Kal H. Porter and GMI Construction. In July 1968, the cast iron weather vane with a flying eagle, which had been donated by a community member at the time of the building's opening, was stolen. The new building formally opened on February 1, 1969.

Based on physical observation of the property, several alterations occurred at unknown dates. The four windows at the north wing of the primary façade were replaced with a band of three slider windows. The four windows at the original south wing of the façade were replaced with an eight-bay assembly of almost full-height windows and a door. The original recessed entrance at the primary façade was removed and the ground level wall brought forward to be even with the façade planes of the one-story wings. Based on historic photographs, these changes occurred prior to 1980 and were likely part of the 1968-69 renovation (**Figure 45**).

A wood trellis was added at the northeast entrance to the zoo and the L-shaped patio was designed in the spring of 1989 by Page Sanders and the California Landscape Contractors Association. Minor improvements to the interior and site have recently occurred, such as interior partition reconfigurations, new enclosures in the zoo, and electrical and mechanical work.

³¹ Description of the original building is based upon contemporary newspaper reports and historic photographs; "Junior Museum building will open in October," *Palo Alto Times*, 1941, 8A.

³² "Junior Museum addition favored," *Palo Alto Times*, February 14, 1955; Page & Turnbull, *Historical Assessment of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo*, April 7, 2004.

³³ Page & Turnbull, 2004.



Figure 40. Illustration of the new Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building in 1941, published in the *Palo Alto Times*. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.



Figure 41. A series of construction photos for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.



Figure 42. Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building in 1948.
Source: Peninsula Life magazine, 1948 via Palo Alto Historical Association.

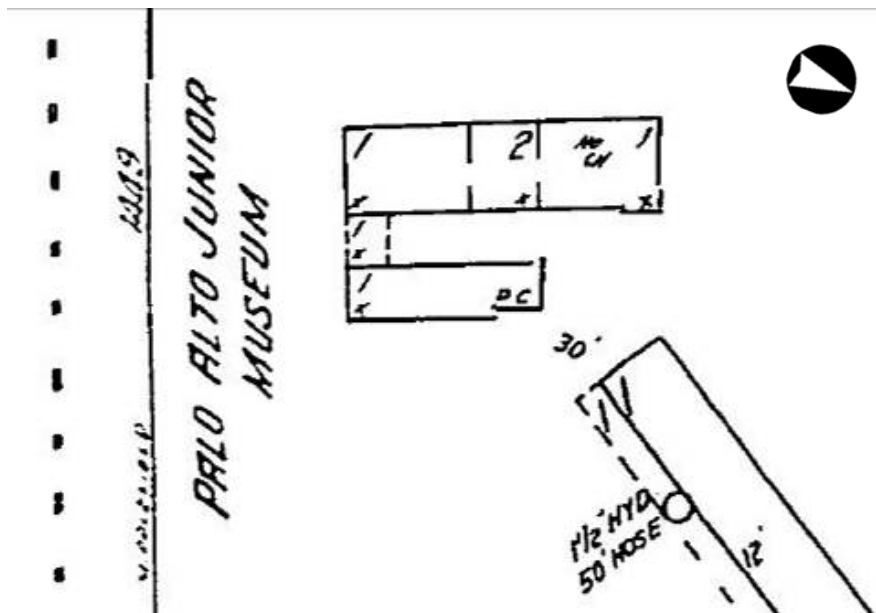


Figure 43. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1949.
Source: San Francisco Public Library Digital Sanborn Collection.

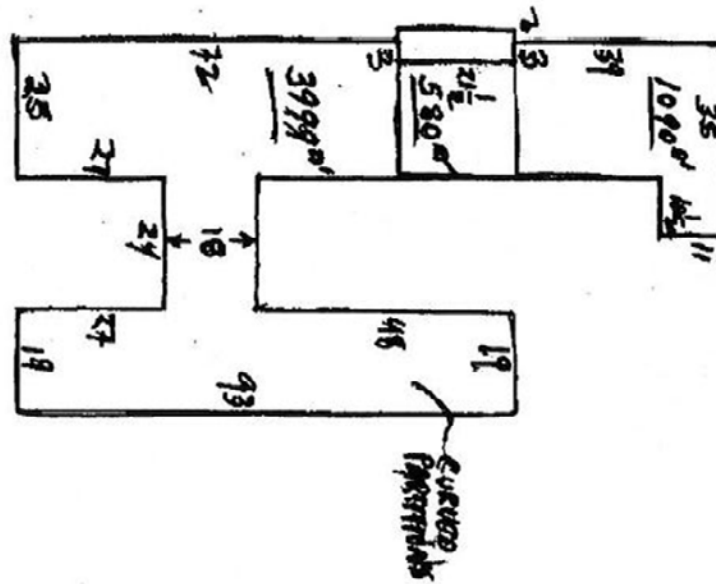


Figure 44. Sketch of building floorplan from undated county assessment form, likely circa late 1950s, prior to the enclosure of the central courtyard.
Source: City of Palo Alto Community Development Center.



Figure 45. Primary façade of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building in 1980. The recessed entrance has been filled in and the full-height windows have replaced the band of four sliding windows at center. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.

OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS

The subject building was constructed for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo and has been continually occupied since 1941. The City of Palo Alto assumed ownership of the building in 1943 from an association of volunteers. The museum is currently owned by the City of Palo Alto and managed by the non-profit organization, Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo.

ORIGINAL ARCHITECT & BUILDER

The original Palo Alto Junior Museum building was designed by Dole Ford Thompson and constructed by Aro & Okerman. Thompson received his architecture degree from the University of Michigan in 1927. He is known to have designed at least eleven buildings in Palo Alto, where he was based. Most of his projects appear to be residences, but he also designed several small facilities buildings at Stanford University.³⁴ Research did not uncover further examples of his work. Contractors Aro & Okerman also worked primarily in Palo Alto constructing residences and additions, as well as several fire stations in the 1930s through 1950s.³⁵

³⁴ Page & Turnbull, *Historical Assessment*, 2004, 4; “New Janitor’s Quarters Are Nearing Completion,” *The Stanford Daily*, August 15, 1935, 3.

³⁵ “Architects & Builders,” Palo Alto Stanford Heritage, accessed February 26, 2016. <http://www.pastheritage.org/ArchBuild.html>; Amy French, “Historic Resources Board Staff Report: 2330

Kal H. Porter, the architect of the 1968-69 renovation, was a San Jose-based architect who primarily designed school facilities. He worked throughout Santa Clara County, including the New Inverness School in Cupertino, which feature all moveable walls, and schools for the Jefferson School District in Daly City. He founded the firm Porter, Jensen, Hansen, Manzagol Architects (now PJHM Architects) and Kal Porter, AIA and Associates, which became PSWC Group.³⁶

Bryant,” City of Palo Alto, accessed February 26, 2016, http://www.conlon.org/Schwartz-Conlon/remodeling/planning/historic_merit/HRB_staff_report.PDF.

³⁶ Past Consultants, *San Jose Modernism Historic Context Statement*, June 2009, 142.

V. EVALUATION

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES & CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's most comprehensive inventory of historic resources. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service and includes buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state, or local level. Typically, resources over fifty years of age are eligible for listing in the National Register if they meet any one of the four criteria of significance and if they sufficiently retain historic integrity. However, resources under fifty years of age can be determined eligible if it can be demonstrated that they are of "exceptional importance," or if they are contributors to a potential historic district. National Register criteria are defined in depth in *National Register Bulletin Number 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. There are four basic criteria under which a structure, site, building, district, or object can be considered eligible for listing in the National Register.

- *Criterion A (Event)*: Properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- *Criterion B (Person)*: Properties associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- *Criterion C (Design/Construction)*: Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; and
- *Criterion D (Information Potential)*: Properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is an inventory of significant architectural, archaeological, and historical resources in the State of California. Resources can be listed in the California Register through a number of methods. State Historical Landmarks and National Register-listed properties are automatically listed in the California Register. Properties can also be nominated to the California Register by local governments, private organizations, or citizens. The California Register of Historical Resources follows nearly identical guidelines to those used by the National Register, but identifies the Criteria for Evaluation numerically.

In order for a property to be eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register, it must be found significant under one or more of the following criteria.

- *Criterion 1 (Events)*: Resources that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.
- *Criterion 2 (Persons)*: Resources that are associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.

- *Criterion 3 (Architecture)*: Resources that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values.
- *Criterion 4 (Information Potential)*: Resources or sites that have yielded or have the potential to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

The following section examines the eligibility of the property at 1451 Middlefield Road, containing the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, for listing in the National Register and California Register.

Criterion A / 1 (Events)

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building at 1451 Middlefield Road appears to be individually significant under California Register Criterion 1 as a resource associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of local or regional history. The institution of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo is associated with the early development of children's museums in the western United States. Founded in 1934, the Palo Alto Junior Museum appears to be the first children's museum in the western United States. The museum's founder Josephine O'Hara was directly inspired by the pioneering institutions in Brooklyn and Boston, and brought those ideas to Palo Alto. However, the building at 1451 Middlefield Road was not constructed at this time and was not part of the museum's original founding.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum had several homes during the period 1934-1941, in keeping with the larger pattern of the early children's museums. Typically, museums were housed in empty historic homes or temporary locations, moving and expanding to accommodate institutional growth. Only in the 1960s and 1970s did most institutions begin to construct their own facilities. The building at 1451 Middlefield Road was noted in contemporary newspapers as being the first building in the West to be constructed to serve as a children's museum, made possible by a generous local foundation.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo has become culturally valuable in Palo Alto as an established institution with a clear mission and widespread community support. The significance of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo institution lies in its association within the ideological development of children's museums, which was physically represented by the relatively early construction of the building at 1451 Middlefield Road in 1941. Thus, the period of significance under Criterion 1 is 1941.

The building does not appear to rise to a level of significance for association with broad patterns of national history as to be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A.

Criterion B / 2 (Persons)

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building at 1451 Middlefield Road does not appear to have been associated with persons important to the history of Palo Alto or the State of California to the extent that the property would be considered individually eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register under Criterion B/2 (Persons). The founder of the museum, Josephine O'Hara, is a notable figure in the history of the institution and as an early proponent of the values proposed by children's museums. However, she does not appear to have participated further in the nation-wide or statewide museum movement, and therefore does not rise to an individual level of significance such that the building would be eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register under Criterion B/2.

Criterion C / 3 (Architecture/Design)

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building at 1451 Middlefield Road does not appear to be individually significant under Criterion C/3 (Architecture/Design). The original architect Dole Ford Thompson

and the builders Aro & Okerman were active in Palo Alto but are not prolific or sufficiently known enough to determine that the subject building is the work of a master. The building is designed in a vernacular Ranch style. Although the simplicity of the design complements its use and its setting within the park, it does not possess high artistic value, nor is it a distinctive representation of a style. For these reasons, 1451 Middlefield Road does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register under Criterion C/3.

Criterion D / 4 (Information Potential)

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building at 1451 Middlefield Road was not evaluated for significance under Criterion D/4 (Information Potential). Criterion D/4 generally applies to the potential for archaeological information to be uncovered at the site, which is beyond the scope of this report.

INTEGRITY

In order to qualify for listing in the National Register or the California Register, a property must possess significance under one of the aforementioned criteria and have historic integrity. Integrity is defined as “the authenticity of an historical resource’s physical identity by the survival of certain characteristics that existed during the resource’s period of significance,” or more simply defined as “the ability of a property to convey its significance.”³⁷ The process of determining integrity is similar for both the National Register and the California Register. The same seven variables or aspects that define integrity—location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association—are used to evaluate a resource’s eligibility for listing in the National Register and the California Register. According to the *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, these seven characteristics are defined as follows:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed.

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plans, space, structure, and style of the property.

Setting addresses the physical environment of the historic property inclusive of the landscape and spatial relationships of the building(s).

Materials refer to the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern of configuration to form the historic property.

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history.

Feeling is the property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building at 1451 Middlefield Road remains in the same location in which it was constructed, so the building retains integrity of location. The use of the building has

³⁷ California Office of Historic Preservation, *Technical Assistance Series No. 7: How to Nominate a Resource to the California Register of Historical Resources* (Sacramento, CA: California Office of State Publishing, 4 September 2001), p. 11; National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1997), p. 44.

not changed and the institution that it houses remains as important today as when it was founded. Therefore, the building retains integrity of association and feeling. Rinconada Park and the surrounding environment have changed little, but the nearby public school, the large surface parking lot, and the addition of the outdoor zoo encroach upon the original setting of the building. For this reason, the building does not retain integrity of setting.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building has undergone extensive changes during its history. The original building comprised the two-story tower and two symmetrical one-story wings. Successive additions have occurred to the site, including the construction of a new wing to the southeast, connecting hyphens built between the two volumes, and new volumes constructed in the northeast portion of the building. The enclosure of the courtyard at center has obscured the sense of the building's original scale and linear volumes. The original southern wing has been extended to almost twice the original length, interrupting the symmetry of the original design. The recessed entryway has been replaced, as have the windows at the primary façade. The cumulative impact of these changes has compromised the building's integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. For these reasons, the building does not retain historic integrity.

SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo at 1451 Middlefield Road was found significant under California Register Criterion 1 for its association with the ideological development of children's museums, which was physically represented by the relatively early construction of the building at 1451 Middlefield Road in 1941. However, the building has sustained a number of alterations and additions which obscure its original appearance and compromise its integrity. As both significance and integrity are required for eligibility for listing in the California Register., the alterations render the building ineligible.

VII. CONCLUSION

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building was originally constructed in 1941 by local architect Dole Ford Thompson. The building housed the Children's Museum (now the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo), an institution founded in 1934 to provide education and entertainment for youth in Palo Alto. As an early part of the children's museum movement, the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo embraced tenants established by the first children's museum on the East Coast and was the first institution of its kind west of the Mississippi River. In order to appeal to young patrons who objected to being called "children," the museum's name was officially changed to the Palo Alto Junior Museum. It has become an important civic and cultural institution for the Palo Alto community.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo at 1451 Middlefield Road was found significant under California Register Criterion 1 for its association with the ideological development of children's museums, which was physically represented by the relatively early construction of the building at 1451 Middlefield Road in 1941. However, the building has sustained a number of alterations and additions which obscure its original appearance and compromise its integrity. As both significance and integrity are required for eligibility for listing in the California Register., the alterations render the building ineligible.

For these reasons, the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building at 1451 Middlefield Road does not qualify as a historic resource for the purposes of review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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Architectural Review Findings

1. The design is consistent with applicable provisions of the Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan; Zoning Code, coordinated area plans (including compatibility criteria), and any relevant design guides.
2. The project has a unified and coherent design, that:
 - a. creates an internal sense of order and desirable environment for occupants, visitors, and the general community,
 - b. preserves, respects and integrates existing natural features that contribute positively to the site and the historic character including historic resources of the area when relevant,
 - c. is consistent with the context based design criteria of the applicable zone district,
 - d. provides harmonious transitions in scale, mass, and character to adjacent land uses and land use designations, and
 - e. enhances living conditions on the site (if it includes residential uses) and in adjacent residential areas.
3. The design is of high aesthetic quality, using high quality, integrated materials and appropriate construction techniques, and incorporating textures, colors, and other details that are compatible with and enhance the surrounding area.
4. The design is functional, allowing for ease and safety of pedestrian and bicycle traffic and providing for elements that support the building's necessary operations (e.g. convenient vehicle access to property and utilities, appropriate arrangement and amount of open space and integrated signage, if applicable, etc.).
5. The landscape design complements and enhances the building design and its surroundings, is appropriate to the site's functions, and utilizes regional indigenous drought-resistant plant material capable of providing desirable habitat, and that can be appropriately maintained.
6. The project incorporates design principles that achieve sustainability in areas related to energy efficiency, water conservation, building materials, landscaping, and site planning.