

MORE BERKELEY WALKS- SERIES 6

by Robert E. Johnson

The walks feature:

- * fascinating tidbits on architecture, famous people, street trees and more
- * color photos
- * maps with marked walking route and numbered stops coordinated with text
- * highlights, distance and elevation gain and how to get to the starting point

WALK 37- THOUSAND OAKS REVISITED

In the North Berkeley hills this neighborhood features not only diverse fine homes and gardens but large rock outcrops and native oak trees. The area was designed in harmony with nature and is a decent exercise walk. Much of the hilly route is over streets not covered in our previous walks in the area. 3.2 miles; 400 feet elevation gain



WALK 39- SOUTHWEST OF MLK AND DWIGHT



The area grew rapidly in the early Twentieth Century after the earthquake and SF fire of 1906. Colonial Revival homes and bungalows dominate its tree-lined streets. However for decades Blacks and Asian-Americans could only live in southwest Berkeley due to discrimination and historical traces remain of their presence though many later dispersed elsewhere. 3.5 miles; 135 feet elevation gain.

WALK 39- ELMWOOD PARK

Up against the Oakland border the upscale neighborhood ranges from bungalows to large homes and handsome apartment buildings with two nearby shopping districts. A pleasant jaunt over level terrain. 2.7 miles; 160 feet elev gain.



Walk 37

Thousand Oaks Revisited

Overview: This North Berkeley neighborhood was laid out in a hilly area full of rock outcrops after a 1908 vote for a city park failed to pass. Fortunately many of the rocks and live oak trees are still there, making it attractive for those features as well as for the varied architecture. There was a conscious effort to design more in harmony with nature. This walk covers many sights not in previous walks passing through this area, found in the book *Berkeley Walks*.

Highlights:

- * The size and variety of rhyolite rock outcrops found throughout the area
- * The appealing architecture of homes built in the 1910s to 1930s
- * Native oaks, other trees and gardens along curving streets

Distance: 3.2 miles; 2.2 miles with shortcut

Elevation gain: 400 feet; 250 feet with shortcut

Getting there: Start at the northeast corner of The Alameda and Solano Avenue near the foot of Indian Rock Path. The location is accessible by AC Transit buses running on The Alameda and Solano Avenue, some coming through the tunnel from downtown Berkeley. Parking is generally available farther north on The Alameda or on side streets. Check signs.

After a vote to create a 980 acre park here fell short of the two thirds majority in the 1908 election (which also saw the failure of an attempt to relocate the state capitol from Sacramento to this part of North Berkeley) the land was subdivided. The southern section centering on the Marin Circle became Northbrae, a project of Mason McDuffie, while the northern section was subdivided in 1909 by developer John Hopkins Spring. Famed landscape architect Mark Daniels laid out this hilly area of Thousand Oaks with a plan to build in harmony with nature. Features included contoured streets, preservation of most rock outcrops and oak trees, avoidance of severe cuts in the hills, and ornamental urns. The neighborhood of homes ranging from bungalows to mansions was then annexed to the City of Berkeley in 1920.

This walk explores many streets and points of interest in the neighborhood not covered in the “Southampton and Thousand Oaks” or “The Rock Parks” walks in the book *Berkeley Walks*. Proceed north on The Alameda (with the hills to your right). Going up The Alameda the character of the street changes from a wide thoroughfare to a narrow and intimate residential street.



In the first block note the London plane trees (sycamore) on the right with their peeling bark and large maple-like leaves. On the other side are some sweet gums (liquidambar) which turn bright colors for an extended period in autumn.

For a good distance all along the uphill side are rock retaining walls near the sidewalk, all done in the same style which would indicate they were put there by the developer Mason McDuffie since this represented a boundary of Northbrae. Most of the walk, however, is in Thousand Oaks which begins just a bit farther along. The houses are mainly stucco and generally from the 1920s along this stretch. A few houses from the starting point at 859 The Alameda (1) there is a large rock outcrop in the yard, a feature that will be quite common on this walk. The rock is rhyolite, a volcanic rock dating back more than 10 million years. The sloping front gardens along this side vary from intensely landscaped to simply ivy or grass.

Considerably farther along, past San Pedro Avenue, at 747 The Alameda (2) in the yard but near the sidewalk is a strawberry tree (*arbutus unedo*) with red peeling bark and small bell-like pink flowers that hang down in chains. Between 741 and 735 The Alameda are fuyu persimmon trees that have brilliant reddish-orange leaves and round orange fruit in autumn. Across the street at the southwest corner of Tacoma is a towering Canary Island palm.

Just after Tacoma Avenue, on either side of the street, are some camphor trees with their shiny leaves which are very fragrant when crushed. Products from the tree were used as insect repellents in clothing chests and the like. Unfortunately the roots can be very disruptive to sidewalks and street paving.

At the northeast corner (far right corner) with Capistrano Avenue (3) is a big sweetgum. Then along The Alameda is a row of four Australian paperbark trees (*meleleuca linariifolia*); the look and feel of the bark shows the reason for the common name; try pressing the spongy, peeling bark with your fingers. In summer the trees feature big sprays of white flowers that make them look like broccoli dipped in cream. Down to the right from the first of these trees is a ravine with Blackberry Creek flowing between the houses.



Paperbark tree trunk (Meleleuca)

The sidewalk curves around another rock outcrop. The urn near the sign for Indian Trail is a reminder of the land development scheme that as part of the landscape architecture included cement urns, stone street markers and benches. As we noted previously the Thousand Oaks development followed the unsuccessful 1908 effort to move the state capital to this part of Berkeley. Street planning had already been done utilizing the names of California counties and cities. The house uphill to the left at 715 The Alameda is a 1915 red brick somewhat Georgian style house designed by Henry Gutterson with fantail arched windows. To the right of it at 717 The Alameda is a 1911 house that John Hudson Thomas significantly altered in 1917 and it is also quite impressive. Both are on large lots.

At 705 The Alameda (4), opposite San Lorenzo, there is another big house that may be hard to see but major landscaping was done around 2013 with big boulders, terraces, new plantings etc. There is also a giant pine tree uphill from the gate. Farther along at

671 The Alameda is a 1912 Craftsman house in stucco and wood with a bracketed front gable, projecting rafters and wooden flower boxes; a photo of it was used as a promotional tactic during development to show the romantic potential for homes in this area among the oak trees.

At 641 The Alameda (5) is Villa Felice (Happy Villa) in Italian style with an impressive entry stair and porch; particularly noteworthy is the iron railing. To the left in the yard is a large rhyolite outcrop called Guardian Rock. There are clefts in the rock used as paths in the garden, which is private property. Carefully cross The Alameda where in season you may see a red flowering gum tree (*Corymbia ficifolia*); go a bit to the left to El Paseo Path. Descend two blocks on the path, lined with low rock walls, to Vincente Avenue where the path ends.

Go left to see 683 Vincente (6) a house fronted by a large rock outcropping on which there is a little lantern made to look like a lighthouse (might be covered by foliage), a



683 Vincente Avenue

mailbox built into the rock wall, a swooping iron handrail and a glass paned art nouveau lamp hanging over the top of the stairs. A few lots farther along 693 Vincente has an exotic front garden of succulents, palms and some other unusual plants. Either here or at the nearby stop sign cross Vincente and go back up along the other side, away from Colusa Avenue. You will have a better view of the house above the rock and its ornate main window at 683 Vincente from this side. Then at 671 Vincente is a renovated Craftsman house in salmon-colored stucco and green trim with complex massing.

This neighborhood is characterized by a variety of architectural styles including Craftsman, Mediterranean and Tudor/English cottage. Farther along at 636 Vincente (7) is a brown-shingle house with wisteria vines all across the front of the house and a recessed entry that has a handsome bench. Across the street at 635 Vincente the 1927 house has old style leaded windows and big iron hinges on the garage door like a medieval castle though the wooden features need some

care at this writing.

At 619 Vincente (8) the contemporary style 1950 house is built over a big rock outcropping which was actually much larger before extensive blasting with dynamite. Marvin Hellbaum, the original home owner and designer, also owned a building supply

company. He had to construct a major water drainage system under the house because of the way the rock impeded water flow. He also used beams from a former railway bridge to anchor the house to the rock in order to withstand potential earthquakes. The large garage/basement features a substantial section of the rock. The more yellowish rock seen in the stairway and in the exterior and retaining walls is Arizona flagstone. On the west side of the street the house at 616 Vincente has a deck with a grand view built over another rock outcropping called Tamalpais Rock.

Continue on Vincente and cross Thousand Oaks Boulevard at the stop signs. At 590 Vincente (9) there is a large statue in the front and farther along 552 Vincent has brick sections with large embedded rocks on the front and on the side chimney. Then at 544 Vincente (10) is a 1912 Craftsman brown shingle house with large curving brackets, a cute angled window at the entryway and pleasing asymmetry.

It is easy to see where the area gets its name of Thousand Oaks from the picturesque live oaks everywhere that keep their leaves all year. One can only hope that they will not be lost to the sudden oak death syndrome spreading rapidly in California.

At the next intersection cross and go left down Visalia Avenue (street sign is not obvious); the street is named for the California city. Keep on the right side of the street and continue along a low chain link fence until you get to a bridge. The ravine of Cerrito Creek drops down sharply and this house at 1651 Visalia (11) and the next one at 1641 both have bridges to carry their driveways over the creek. There are native buckeye trees with their lovely branch patterns and plumes of white slightly fragrant flowers along the creek. The border between Alameda and Contra Costa Counties from just below Summit Reservoir (at Grizzly Peak Boulevard and Spruce Street) roughly follows Cerrito Creek. However, at this point the line is straighter than the actual creek bed so that these two houses are still in Berkeley even though on the north side of the creek. Otherwise the bridges would be border crossings and the properties would be split between two counties.

Continue down Vincente to Colusa Avenue and turn right, keeping your eye out for Cerrito Creek behind a wall of ivy and shaded by a large bay laurel tree where the creek goes under the street. Next you come to an old building with Catherine Hiersoux Studio Potter and then Kensington Circle (12), one of two original shopping areas in this unincorporated historic community within Contra Costa County. There is a grocery store, pub and other local shops and businesses and a large California live oak in the middle of the circle. Return on Colusa and go



Kensington Circle

left back up Visalia to Vincente.

Cross Vincente and go a few steps to the left; there are many large rocks in the yard of 495 Vincente (13) Up the hill with an entrance between the rocks is a house designed in 1954 by respected mid-century modernist Roger Lee, one of the first Chinese Americans to succeed in local architecture; the more visible structure lower down to the right is a later addition while a carport and other structure are to the left. Just a bit to the right are the Visalia Steps. It is an intriguing and challenging stairway of more than 90 steps from the street to the top that goes around some big boulders and with some sections that are extremely steep almost like ladders. If you go up this way turn right at the top a short distance until you are opposite Santa Rosa Avenue.

OPTION: If you don't feel like doing the steps retrace your route on Vincente to Thousand Oaks, noting along the way what seems like a year round Halloween display at 521 Vincente (14). Go left up Thousand Oaks and then left on Menlo Place, noting the house on the left at 11 Menlo Place behind a huge rock in the front yard that has a



11 Menlo Place

large conifer tree growing out of it. Continue until you are opposite Santa Rosa Avenue where the two options meet.

Looking across and up to the right is a very large rock outcrop called Picnic Rock (15). It is on private land but can sometimes be visited with the owner's permission. Several other large rock outcrops in this area are in public parks and can be easily visited and climbed. See "The Rock Parks" walk in our book *Berkeley Walks*. Continue on up Menlo Place around the curve until the street ends at The Alameda.

SHORTCUT: If you are running short on time turn right and follow The Alameda back to the starting point.

To continue the walk a little longer turn left on The Alameda. Farther along an American Colonial style house on the right at 549 The Alameda (16) has a very tall multi-trunked deodar cedar in the front yard. The street passes an intersection with Vallejo Street as it curves around to the right. You will note on the left that the houses are perched on a very steep slope. The land drops away here toward Cerrito Creek in what is a fair sized canyon rather than just a ravine.

From 520 The Alameda (17) you get a view of homes in the distance that are in Kensington on the opposite side of the canyon. The sidewalk goes up somewhat steeply with some steps just ahead. Then eventually it becomes San Antonio Avenue where the left sidewalk turns into flagstone. At that point turn right on San Ramon Avenue. In this area the streets are mainly named after California cities rather than counties. Just after passing Vallejo Street turn right to go down Santa Clara Avenue.

A little ways down on the opposite side at 551 Santa Clara (18) is a house that had a major make-over giving it a much more contemporary design with large windows. On this side 554 Santa Clara is a Spanish colonial style home with typical features such as a wooden balcony.

Farther along on the right at 564 Santa Clara (19) is an impressive house that is mostly hidden by a high ivy hedge but can partially be seen from the sidewalk in front of the next house by looking back to the right. It was designed in 1914 by John Hudson Thomas with some elements of Prairie style as well as large lattice work under the eaves, unusual metal spoke brackets, and fairly detailed large windows that give the main room, which you can see at the northwest corner of the house, excellent light and views.

The house now in front of you at 570 Santa Clara is another large house, this time in English Tudor style from 1927. Now cross Santa Clara to the left in the crosswalk to head directly away from these two houses along the right side of San Juan Avenue, named for the California mission and town of San Juan Bautista. On the left side at 1827 San Juan (20) is a 1915 brown-shingle house on the slope that is attributed to Bernard Maybeck; it is a bit difficult to see due to heavy foliage, including in spring a gorgeous pink azalea.

To the right of this at 1831 San Juan is the Cooper House of 1914 that was originally done in brown shingles with some Classical design elements; it was designed by William Hays, a UC architecture professor. There was considerable controversy in the neighborhood when the exterior wood wall shingles were replaced with stucco in the early 2000s. The shingled walls had a warmer feel compared to the flat charcoal colored wall that replaced them.

Continue on San Juan, noting at 1868 San Juan (21) a 1928 Tudor house on the right with a decorative motif in the half-timbering above the first floor on the left side and a front entry framed in a castle-like stone feature. Opposite this 1867 San Juan has a large wisteria with profuse blooms in spring. At San Fernando



1868 San Juan Avenue

look across to the left where in late spring/early summer is a jacaranda tree with its bright blue flowers. Turn right on San Fernando Avenue and continue to Thousand Oaks Boulevard.

Across the street is Great Stone Face Park with rock outcroppings featured in the aforementioned Rock Parks walk. That walk also includes a number of other homes designed by notable architects in this neighborhood. The park's bit of open landscape helps remind us that Native Americans inhabited this area for thousands of years and ample evidence of their presence has been found including mortar grinding holes, shell mounds, tools, trade beads, and a smoke blackened cave.

Turn right on Thousand Oaks and at 1871 Thousand Oaks on the right note a compact front garden with striking colors and textures.

When you get to Santa Clara Avenue, go briefly around the corner for a better view of the corner house at 597 Santa Clara (22) from 1911, best seen from the driveway entrance. The original owner was a vaudeville actor who married one of the daughters of John Hopkins Spring who developed this area; Spring was not keen but later reconciled to the marriage and the son-in-law became a realtor. The house uses brick, stone, wood and stucco; the covered porte cochere in front is partly gone but the brick piers and some wood framing remain.

Return to Thousand Oaks and go right one block to the The Alameda and at the four-way stop cross left to go down The Alameda. At Yosemite Road go in the crosswalk to a median where there is an urn recreated by the neighborhood association in a place where there was one originally. Cross the next section of Yosemite Road to continue on The Alameda. On the opposite side at 620 The Alameda (23) is a cast-iron deer statue .It is not uncommon to see live deer in this neighborhood. To the left of of the garden with the deer sculpture at 622 The Alameda is a tall English Tudor Revival house with lots of half-timbering and a very steep roof.



Urn at Yosemite Road and The Alameda

Shortly after that on the left you will get a chance to see Guardian Rock again and Villa Felice.

Continue down the Alameda to the starting point. Cross to the right side and you will hopefully note some things that you did not see coming up on the first part of the walk as you will be viewing them from a different perspective.

Walk 38

Southwest of MLK and Dwight

Overview: From the late 19th century housing was built near Martin Luther King Jr. Way as the steam train line was only a couple of blocks away. In the western part of the area the opening of transit lines in the early 20th century spurred further development with generally different styles of home building. Importantly, this area shows historical traces of the various ethnic groups forced at one time to live only in the southwest part of Berkeley because of racial discrimination in housing. The walk is flat and includes a good variety of homes and street trees.

Highlights:

- * Historic churches founded by African Americans and Japanese immigrants.
- * Victorian, Colonial Revival, California bungalow and other home styles
- * Murals and gardens adding to the charm

Distance: 3.5 miles; 1.3 or 2.2 miles with shortcuts

Elevation gain: 140 feet; 45 or 85 feet with shortcuts

Getting there: Start at the southwest corner of Martin Luther King Jr Way (MLK) and Dwight Way. The location is accessible by AC Transit buses on various lines. Parking is generally available on some nearby streets but check signs for limits.

It should be pointed out that Asian Americans, African Americans, Latinos and others not of European Caucasian heritage were prohibited for a long time from residing anywhere in the city except in this southwest quadrant of Berkeley. The area also attracted recent European immigrants and working class people. A steam train came up Adeline and Shattuck from Oakland in 1876. Then competing commuter train lines opened from 1912 on California and Sacramento streets leading to considerable growth in the western part of today's walk.

Moreover, by 1940 this was the center of a sizable population of about 1320 Japanese Americans. Often facing discrimination in jobs they tended to become entrepreneurs and set up their own businesses; their enterprises could locate downtown, in the Elmwood and other parts of the city though there was the highest concentration in this area. Many had come from farming backgrounds and thus there were at least five plant nurseries as well as six florists, seventeen dry cleaners or laundries, six shore repair businesses, a dozen groceries (in the era of small corner stores) and myriad other businesses according to the map for 1940 compiled by the Preserving California's Japantowns project.



Shortly after the start of World War II all of the Japanese Americans including those with US citizenship were sent to internment camps and most lost their homes and businesses. Many returned to this area after the war but then began dispersing to other parts of the city and the Bay Area as discrimination lessened and younger generations became more integrated into American society.

Meanwhile there was also an influx of African Americans during the second world war to work in Richmond shipbuilding yards and many settled in this area (again non-Caucasians were only allowed to reside in southwest Berkeley). They established a number of African American churches, many of which are still here today. There has also been dispersal of this community in more recent years and the area today is one of Berkeley's most ethnically mixed residential areas. As prices soared in other areas of

Berkeley the southwest quadrant saw new interest from buyers who are renovating some homes although even here prices have soared to astounding levels.

Walk south on MLK Jr Way (with the hills to your left) to Blake Street and turn right, but just before turning look down the next block of MLK to see a sign for Nakamura Realtors, indicating that some Japanese American businesses are still located in this area. Blake Street is named after George M. Blake, an early Berkeley developer and brother-in-law of Francis K. Shattuck.

For the first couple of blocks the street is unusually wide. On the right is a simple Victorian at 1835 Blake (1) that was renovated around 2016 after falling into a period of serious neglect. At 1834 Blake on the left is a 1907 house with Colonial Revival elements that was raised and divided into two units with a third unit in a separate building in the back, one means of making housing more affordable in pricey Berkeley. After this Blake Street has lots of Colonial Revival houses, particularly in this first block.



1834 Blake Street

1822 Blake (2) has a Japanese style fence and gate with a big wisteria vine over the gate and redbud trees in the front yard; the distinctive small pink flowers bloom in late February and March. The house itself has numerous brackets under the eaves, detailed woodwork, and an unusual roof with a raised section on top that makes it resemble a Japanese temple roof.

The next three houses along the south side are in variations of Colonial Revival style. 1818 Blake from 1912 has a corner recessed porch and a Palladian window; 1814 Blake from 1907 has a central columned porch and a bay window on the left; 1810 Blake, which is even older from 1904, has a mixed style but features the steep forward facing gable typical of some Colonial Revival homes. It also has a large dormer on the left side and half timbering, the latter design feature being unusual for Colonial Revival. 1802 Blake is a 1913 Berkeley brown shingle with the entrance on the side of the house and various window bays. 1801 Grant/2519 Grant (3) on the northeast corner is a 1901 duplex with one entrance on each street. It features a two-story corner bay rather like a

turret, and on the Blake street side a cute bow over a window and a projecting gable over the entrance.

In the next block 1743 Blake on the northwest corner was built in the 1880s or 1890s but after the 1906 earthquake a family from San Francisco expanded it to two stories. At one point it became a duplex with side-by-side entries on Blake. As of 2020 it is a single family home and features numerous gables and bays as well as varied types of siding. 1737 Blake is a 1906 Victorian/Colonial Revival transitional design with Victorian elements such as the fish scale shingles, sunburst ornament in the gable and inset corner bay window while the columned porch is clearly Colonial Revival.

1735 Blake (4) has a front that is Craftsman style supposedly from the 1910s but the property records show a house from 1894 and during renovations evidence of the earlier facade was found behind the two rooms across the front indicating the house



1735 Blake Street

front was originally farther back on the lot. 1730 Blake is a typical Craftsman bungalow from 1911. 1714 Blake is a renovated brown shingle house with an unusual dormer. Near the corner 1704 Blake (5), a duplex, is one of the most unique houses in the neighborhood; built in 1904, it has a gambrel roof with external curved wood framing in the gable, an angled corner window bay at the glassed in porch and lovely textured and leaded glass in the porch door; the entrance to the second floor is from a stairway on the west side.

The third block of Blake has more stucco bungalows and craftsman houses. However, 1635 Blake (6) is an English half timbered country style home with very tall redwoods in the front yard that almost hide the house. Built in 1930 it is of later construction than most in this area. 1629 Blake is a raised and somewhat altered but pleasant 1905 Victorian duplex with a nicely done porch. 1624 Blake is a two story 1903 brown-shingle with wide second floor veranda over the equally wide porch.

Some mid-block apartments are so-so in design and construction but at least not hugely out of scale with nearby homes. The apartments at 1621 Blake include a bamboo fence and live bamboo plantings. 1610 Blake is partly hidden by foliage but a typical California Spanish bungalow from 1927 with colorful decorative tiles. 1602 Blake/2529 California (7) is another corner duplex. The most interesting feature is to the left of the entrance stair on the Blake side where a plaque states that during his

residence here from 1999 to 2007 Ethan Rarick wrote *California Rising, the Life and Times of Pat Brown* and *Desperate Passage, the Donner Party's Perilous Journey West*.

The fourth block also has many modest size bungalows from the 1920s. 1543 and 1539 Blake have interesting forms to the porch openings and then 1535 and 1533 Blake (8) have rather colorful gardens. 1526 Blake is another California Spanish bungalow with an a large, arched multi-pane window. 1521 Blake is renovated and raised up with wood detailing but the five section bay window is similar to that next door at 1517 Blake so the house itself probably resembled that one initially. As you move farther west from MLK Jr Way on this walk the blocks tend to have more bungalows and far fewer Colonial Revival or Victorian houses indicating how the western area was developed later when the commuter train lines appeared.

Towards the corner on the right side 1501 Blake is the Sacramento Senior Homes (9) built in 2006 and operated by Satellite Affordable Housing Associates; it provides



Sacramento Senior Homes

affordable, subsidized housing for qualifying low income seniors. The building is an attractive brightly colored example of recent infill with features to give it a more traditional look such as brackets under the eaves, first floor columns and a trellised gate with wisteria vine. It has energy conserving design and is partly powered by solar energy. As you go around the corner to the right on Sacramento Street you can see that it also has shopfronts on the street including a cafe; the ground floor parking garage is mainly behind the retail. Second and third floor sections project forward like large bays, giving more space inside while the sidewalk remains wide.

The next building on the southeast corner of Dwight Way and Sacramento (address is 1518 Dwight) was built in 1999 by Dwight Way Housing and is operated by Resources for Community Development which provides this housing for people with disabilities. It is on the site of a former gas station and features spacious

wooden balconies on both the Dwight and Sacramento sides.

You can also look across katy-corner to the northwest corner of the intersection where there is a historic mixed use building that has the popular Homemade Cafe on the first floor and apartments with numerous bay windows on the second floor. With the two recent buildings you just looked at there is a return to that earlier mode of urban design with a mix of uses in one building; this is a more efficient use of land and promotes greater sidewalk vitality and safety.

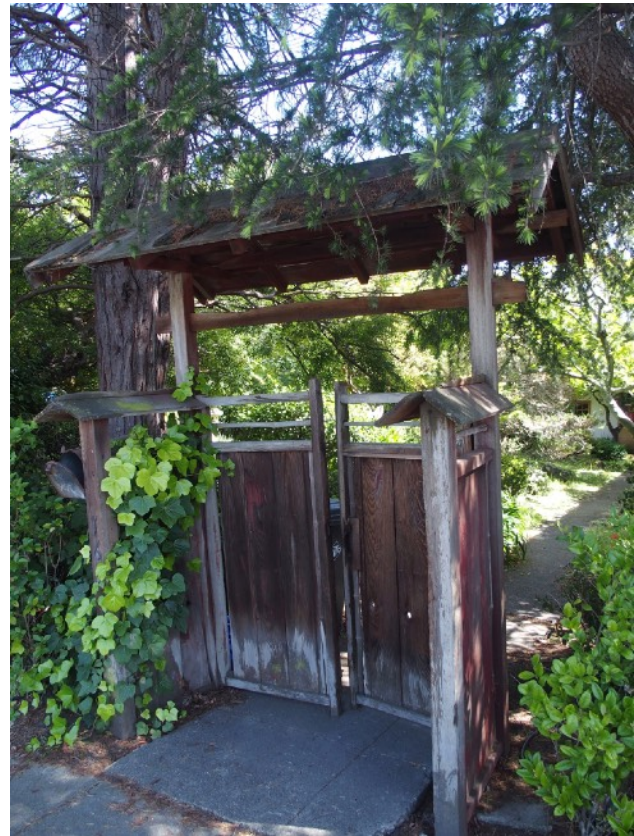
Now head back south on Sacramento and continue past Blake. Note on the opposite side several Canary Island Palms (10), not very tall but with very thick trunks; generally a palm trunk does not grow in diameter as it extends in height. Turn left at Parker Street which is named after George F. Parker, an early Berkeley town trustee. This street follows a similar pattern to Blake with a preponderance of one floor stucco bungalows at this end and generally larger residences toward Martin Luther King Jr Way.

On the left 1511 Parker (11) is a bigger house than the norm on this block and set far back on its lot with an unusually large lawn in front. Reportedly constructed in 1920 it was probably renovated later. By contrast most houses in this area tend to have the front wall line up at the same distance from the curb. 1532 Parker on the right is in bright yellow. 1536 Parker (12) is an example of another style of California Spanish bungalow, in this case a split-level from 1931 with a sculpted porch entry.

Continue past California. The area was inundated with hurriedly built apartment buildings in the 1960s until the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance of 1973 put a stop to it. At 1622 Parker is an example that seems to lack any design sense whatsoever and for which the only decoration is the screen of decorative cement blocks, unfortunately all too typical of 1960s multi-unit buildings.

Next door 1624 Parker (13) by contrast has a house barely visible as it is set back in a heavily landscaped garden. The gate and many of the garden features such as stone lanterns, large rocks, some of the shrub pruning and the (somewhat dilapidated) gate reflect Japanese style garden design. 1638 Parker is a 1927 Craftsman bungalow with a large front window that is probably of later design.

At the southeast corner with McGee Avenue (1700 Parker) is a beautiful 1908 Craftsman house (14), one of the most unique designs in the neighborhood; it



1624 Parker Street

features flares in the roof slopes, a large dormer with a door on the second floor of the Parker side, a small eyebrow dormer on the McGee side, a decorative frieze near the top of the first floor exterior wall and handsomely done window framing and porch. There is also a very tall Mexican fan palm tree visible behind the house and a Japanese double flowering cherry blossom tree in front. McGee Avenue is named after James McGee, who had a large farm north of here and was an early town trustee.

As you continue up Parker there are other Craftsman bungalows as well as Colonial Revival homes. The second house on the right, 1706 Parker, is an example of a high peaked Colonial Revival from 1901 with an ornate second floor window while 1707 Parker on the opposite side has an unusual angled porch with a pointy hexagonal roof and there are small and large bay windows; the house was built in 1907 but probably raised up at some point. 1716 Parker on the right side is a raised Victorian house from 1897 with a rear section on the left that has some historic features so it is hard to say if it was added later or not. Then on the left 1727 and 1729 Parker (15) are a pair of high peaked homes from 1910 that have both been altered but have a sort of fraternal charm. Farther along on the right side there is an extensive mural painted on the fence as your approach the corner of Grant Street for a Colonial Revival house at the southwest corner (2600 Grant).



2600 Grant Street Fence Mural

On the Southeast corner at 2601 Grant (16) is another charming house, now a duplex, with Colonial Revival and Craftsman elements and an appealing L-shaped porch; it was built in 1905. Take a very short side trip south on Grant to see 2608 Grant (17) an unusual 1902 Craftsman house with a hipped roof, a squat corner tower featuring a pointed cap, a clinker brick chimney and sweeping eaves over the dormer windows; it has an open porch on the front but a covered porch on the south side where the entrance is located. Next to

it the 1906 brown shingle house at 2610 must have been significantly altered at some point but it has classical ornamentation and a curved eave over the large windows.

Now return to Parker and head right or east. At 1813 Parker (18) is a big 1915 Berkeley brown shingle house with a later addition of tall windows to bring lots of light into what was probably former attic space. Then at 1825 is another large house in wood

siding that has lot of plantings that somewhat obscure the fact that a side room projects fairly well out from the second floor; it dates from 1907.

At the northwest corner with Martin Luther King Jr Way at 1841 Parker was the New Light church built in 1912 that is rather simple with an unusual gothic arched window over the entrance. In 2016 it was sold and converted into a residence.

SHORTCUT: If you are running short of time simply turn left on MLK Jr Way to return to the starting point.

To Continue the walk go right on MLK Jr Way and then right again on Carleton Street.

There are many Colonial Revival homes on the west side of MLK Jr Way and a mix of styles on the first block going west on Carleton. At 1820 Carleton (19), the house has an unusually large garden on the west side behind a fence. On the opposite side 1817 Carleton comprises three houses in wood and stucco constructed in 2017, one in the rear of the other two. Prior to that there was one house on the lot that was very run down. On the corner of the house on the right are windows that reveal the interior staircase. This development is an example of the gentrification brought on by Berkeley's popularity and soaring home prices although building three homes on one lot makes them somewhat more affordable than if only one were built.

1739 Carleton from 1914 on the northwest corner with Grant is a rather large house for this neighborhood. The front steps come down right to the sidewalk which is also atypical. At 1731 Carleton (20) there is a sizable 1904 house that is notable for the large Canary Island Palms in front. Next door At 1725 Carleton is a 1908 Colonial Revival house with a side entry and next to that a 1901 Victorian house at 1723 Carleton that was converted at some point to brown shingles and there are more Canary Island palms as well as giant yucca.

On the left near the northeast corner at 1710 Carleton (21) is the contemporary style Berkeley Methodist United Church. The church began in 1929 with the merger of two Japanese-American Christian congregations that had formed in 1892 and 1903, respectively (and thus the word United in the name). The first chapel was dedicated at this site in 1932 but during the WWII internment was boarded up as a warehouse for Japanese American family possessions left behind. The current chapel dates from 1955 while the adjoining building to the right in Mediterranean style dates from the 1930s. Both feature tile roofs.



Berkeley United Methodist Church

In light of a community that was discriminated against particularly during World War II, the church welcomes people of all ethnicities, economic circumstances, and sexual orientations. Many Japanese immigrants to the US were Christians who experienced discrimination in their own country. The J-Sei Center, which was at this site until 2016 when it moved to larger quarters in Emeryville, grew out of Japanese values to provide care and assistance to older adults including many activities and an emphasis on Japanese and Asian meals. In addition to the senior center the organization has an assisted living home in Hayward.

During this walk you may see lots of ornamental pink flowering plum, particularly around February and there are several to the left (south) along McGee Street.

Farther down the next block at 1617 and 1613 Carleton, small apartment buildings were placed in the back of the deep lots, preserving the stucco bungalows in front. At the near or northeast corner at 1601 Carleton a former church and small cottage were



1620 Carleton Street

renovated and expanded around 2015 into two larger residences with elements of traditional style such as the shutters. At the northwest corner of Carleton and California Street at 2620 California (22) the house has a fantasy painting on the garage door facing California Street.

Go left on California and on both sides are crepe myrtle trees with smooth trunks and sprays of pink flowers in summer. At the northwest corner with Derby Street at 1549 Derby is a cactus and succulent garden in front of the house. Katy-corner from this on the southeast corner

is the Abenezer Evangelical Church here since 2007. The Ethiopian language of Amharic is used in the church. Go right down Derby Street passing Longfellow Middle School on the left (23) a city landmark that has tall windows, medallions and pilasters in the central section from 1922 which was designed by William Hays. Frequent renovations and additions took place in succeeding years and again in 1998 and most of the other parts visible from the Derby Street side are fairly undistinguished architecturally. Opposite it is the Bethlehem Temple Word of Faith Apostolic Church at 1521 Derby, a congregation founded by the current pastor's father in 1960. It has large white columns in pairs along the front of the building. The church claims to have 600,000 listeners around the world to its programs.

Return to California and cross it to continue east on Derby. This block has large sweetgum trees along both sides that turn brilliant colors in mid to late autumn. At 1625 Derby (24) is two story 1930 Tudor style house with half timbering that is fairly rare for this neighborhood. At 1634 is a 1910 Craftsman with large brackets, though the first floor windows are not original.

Toward the end of the next block 1739 Derby (25) is a 1915 Craftsman bungalow and to its left at 1737 was originally another very similar Craftsman that offers an object lesson comparing the second floor addition more sympathetic to the original design at 1739 vs an unsympathetic addition at 1737.

Crossing Grant 1809 Derby is a raised Victorian with ornamental features and 1814 Derby is a house showing a transition in design elements from Victorian to Colonial Revival. Then note 2640 MLK Jr Way (26) on the northwest corner with Derby. The building has attractive arched windows with textured glass and some ornamentation and a tile roof; it looks like it may have originally been a chapel. It is now the Mental Health Division of the Berkeley Department of Health Services. On the northeast corner are athletic fields of the Tim Moellering Field dedicated in 2013 to the memory of a very popular Berkeley High School teacher and coach who died in 2011. On the southeast corner is the Berkeley Technical Academy which helps students achieve high school graduation who have difficulty with the standard program. The building has a slopping roof, eaves and large brackets that give it a more traditional look.

There is another option to take a shortcut by going left on MLK to the start. To continue the walk a bit farther go right on MLK and right on Ward Street. There is not much of special interest in the first block except 1811 Ward (27), a two story 1906 Colonial Revival house renovated in 2015 with very large corner pilasters and a glassed in porch; there is a bamboo grove along the east side. On the southwest corner with Grant a large native manzanita has peely bark over dark, polished looking red branches. Beyond that are pink flowering currant, and native ceanothus with its sprays of light blue colored flowers. In the second block of Ward Street in front of 1722 Ward on the left is a pink flowering magnolia and at 1705 Ward (28) is a smallish modern building attached to an impressive house with gambrel roof that has recently been well restored including the multi-pane windows. Previously the complex was the Revelation Missionary Baptist Church, which has moved to



1811 Ward Street

Oakland, but before that there was a Japanese American Christian congregation. Gradually the Japanese Americans in the area dispersed and became more integrated into American culture. Recently many African Americans have also dispersed from Berkeley as well mainly due to the exorbitant cost of housing. The left structure recently has some Japanese features such as the bell above the entry.

In the next block at 1616 Ward an undistinguished 1960s apartment building is set far back from the street and the front of the property is nothing but concrete and gravel behind a chain link fence, which gives it a depressing look in contrast to the gardens and lawns in front of most area residences. On the other hand, at 1612 Ward is a striking 1914 Craftsman bungalow with a wide porch; the house is in dark colors with light trim.

On the southeast corner at 2727 California (29) is a historic mixed use building that had one of the last corner grocery stores until it closed in 2016. It has been nicely restored and converted to an artist creative hub that opened in March 2018; The brainchild of Marc Hellerstein (a Cal and UCSF professor) and Lydia Glenn-Murray, it pays artists and provides room and board as they produce work for the community while also offering a freewheeling camp program for children age seven to seventeen. It is supported by a foundation that Hellerstein set up.

Go left on California and left on Stuart Street. A brown-shingle home at 1612 Stuart (30) has a beautiful oval stained glass window on the front facade. At 1640 Stuart and McGee (31) on the southwest corner is the McGee Baptist Church. It began as a mission at another location in 1918. It soon became a The Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church and then moved to this location in 1930, taking the present name in 1944. In the 1970s the church began a food program for the needy and in 2014 Reverend Smith established the Center for Food, Faith and Justice as a non-profit extension which receives government grants for its work in the East Bay.



1612 Stuart Street

The south side of the 1700 block of Stuart has a row of historic homes in various styles (mostly bungalows) one of which at 1712 Stuart is painted lime green. On the left is a nice 1922 Craftsman bungalow at 1709 Stuart (32) with lots of architectural details in wood and narrow board siding. A raised Victorian at 1719 Stuart was expanded to the right over a garage at some later point. The sliding doors on the balcony are a give-away that this is not a historic feature. 1739 Stuart is an attractive 1909 Colonial Revival with square porch columns.

2800 Grant (33), a duplex on the southwest corner with Stuart, is another 1909 Colonial Revival bungalow with a pretty facade featuring two oval windows and corner bays with large windows on the second floor as well as a small angled bay with leaded windows on the Stuart street side. 1808 Stuart is a one story 1908 Colonial Revival bungalow with an unusual roof design and 1811 Stuart (34) from 1908 has an angled set of windows on the corner and above that a bay window topped by a pointy roof section, overall a rather quirky asymmetrical design.

You can continue to MLK Jr Way and go left to return to the starting point or if you desire a quieter route with many pleasant homes along the way go back a few steps to Grant and go right to Dwight and then right back to the starting point.

Going back on Grant note in the third block at 2632 Grant (35) on the left a Craftsman with extensive stonework in the foundation, chimney, etc. and then at 2510B (36) behind the garage is a residence which incorporates in the current structure a former water tower, which you can see sticking up above the roof.

Walk 39

Elmwood Park

Overview: This area is just south of the territory covered by some of the Elmwood walk in the book *Berkeley Walks*. It is up against the Oakland border between two commercial areas on College Avenue. Developed mainly in the first two decades of the twentieth century, it features attractive tree lined streets with homes and apartment buildings in diverse styles. The walk is relatively level and on sidewalks.

Highlights:

- * Tree lined streets that feature some fine autumn colors
- * Appealing residences from Craftsman bungalows to large mansions
- * Fun shops and restaurants on Claremont Avenue as well as College Avenue

Distance: 2.7 miles; 1.43 miles with shortcut

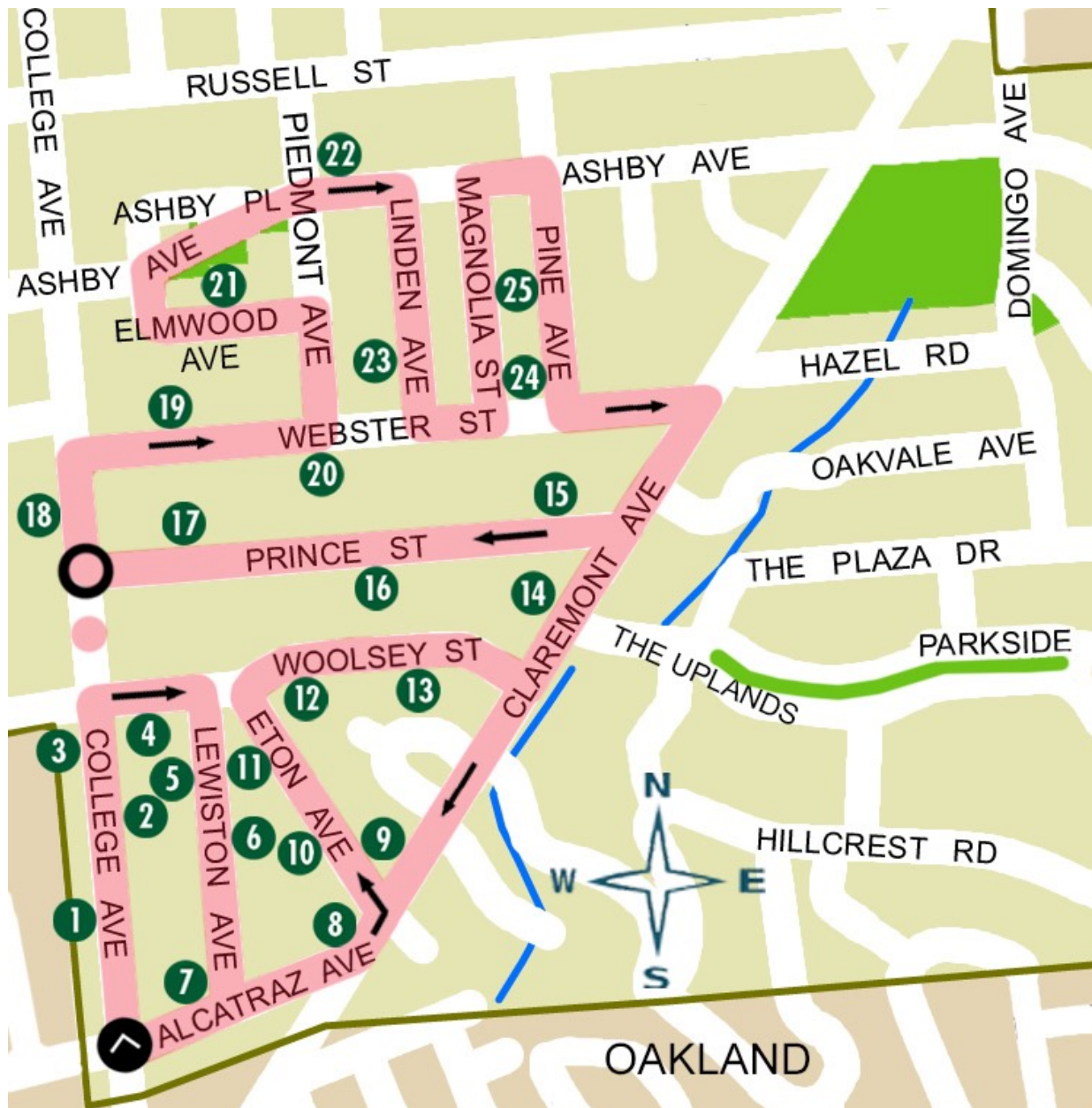
Elevation gain: 160 feet; 80 feet with shortcut

Getting there: Start at the northeast corner of Alcatraz Avenue and College Avenue, accessible by AC Transit bus lines 51B from downtown Berkeley and the UC campus or from Rockridge BART in the other direction. Line 80 runs from Ashby BART (starting at El Cerrito Plaza). Parking is available in the area but pay close attention to signs on time and day limits.

The intersection was historically an important node where the College Avenue Streetcar, line K, came from the University of California on College and then turned on Alcatraz to head west to Adeline and toward the ferries. Moreover, the E line streetcar came up Claremont Avenue to the Claremont Hotel passing very close to the intersection of College and Alcatraz. Thus the area developed with many retail shops and apartment buildings. The block of College south of Alcatraz which is in Oakland toward Claremont Avenue is particularly dense with restaurants and retail shops; the large London plane (sycamore) trees along the street provide a pleasant ambiance of shade in summer and attractive branch patterns in winter.

The Berkeley Oakland border jogs at this point so College Avenue up to Alcatraz is in Berkeley. However, in the middle of the first block west of College Avenue, the border extends one block north of Alcatraz to Woolsey Street and follows Woolsey almost all the way to Adeline Street. This walk explores the area between College, Claremont and Ashby Avenues which is entirely in Berkeley.

Formerly called the McDonough Tract, this is an area that had changed hands many times since being purchased from the Peralta family in 1853. One portion was divided into lots and put up for sale in 1905 and called Elmwood Park. The tract extended to



Russell Street. Originally Ashby Avenue did not go through the site, but Ashby was later extended through Elmwood Park. Advertisements talked about the proximity of streetcar lines and that it was 10 minutes walk from campus. That is quite a stretch since it is about 0.8 miles from campus and one would have to run or walk at Olympic speed to make it in ten minutes. It was definitely pitched as an upscale area where “no saloons will be permitted on the property” according to a Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association pamphlet (their 2015 spring house tour). Many elms were planted in the area, most of which have unfortunately since been lost due to disease.

Heading north on College (with the hills to your right) there is a mixture of single family homes and apartment buildings but the scale and design help them to go well together.

Farther along and across the street at 3144 College (1) is a multi-family home built in 1911 with considerable ornamentation, especially around the windows. On this side at 3141 College is a handsome apartment building from 1924 featuring second floor bay windows and curved features over many of the other multi-paned windows; the building has an L-shape and an entry garden on the south side.

3125 College (2) is another apartment building, this one in a very different style, dating from 1922 with bold colors and massing; there are hints of the Prairie School style. There actually seem to be more apartments in this long block as you get farther from Alcatraz.

The brown shingle Craftsman home at 3103 College from 1910 has fascinating carpentry work below the gable and under the eaves including rounded rafter ends. 3100 College (3), built in 1923, on the southwest corner with Woolsey is probably the biggest of the apartment buildings on this block and is a notable building with a grand inset entry enhanced by marble trim.

Turn right on Woolsey Street

After an apartment building on the corner with College Avenue, this street features mainly two story urban single family homes built up fairly close to the sidewalk and mainly from the 1910s and 1920s. Many are fairly large and are primarily in brown shingle with some in stucco.



3103 College Avenue

Somewhat more modest is 2710 Woolsey (4) from 1912; it features both rectangular and angled bays, the left one with a punched out angled roof segment above it.

Turn right again on Lewiston Avenue which has some of the more impressive houses in the area; it is named for a town in Maine that has a college of the same name. On the left 3109 Lewiston is a 1910 American four square house with Colonial Revival details such as the porch columns and corner pilasters. 3116 Lewiston (5) also from 1910 has the entry recessed on one side and the second floor juts out a little. It has a vibrant front garden including some entertaining sculptures.

Directly across the street 3117 Lewiston from 1907 has a big gable facing the street and twin gabled bays. The lower floor has board siding but the upper floor is finished in brown shingle. Inside the large gable facing the street at 3120 Lewiston is a second floor angled bay with multipane windows; the house also dates from 1907 making these two among the older ones on the street. A ginkgo tree in front provides brilliant golden yellow leaves in late autumn

The 1918 house at 3129 Lewiston (6) has a hip roof and is in Cape Cod style, fairly uncommon in our area. 3138-40 Lewiston is a Colonial Revival duplex built in 1906 and renovated in 1926 with two columned entry porches; the one on the side has a glassed in sun porch above it. The 1913 house at 3152 Lewiston is probably the quirkiest design on the block with a complex massing of jutting sections, bays, a semi-inset porch and an irregular roofline. Finally 3160 Lewiston (7) from 1928 at the northwest corner with Alcatraz is an impressive Mediterranean style house with red tile roof, high arched windows and door on the first floor, and palm trees in front.

Turn left on Alcatraz Avenue. 2733 Alcatraz has an imposing giant sequoia tree in the front yard. Then bear left on Claremont Avenue

3208 Claremont (8) from 1920 has elements of Prairie Style architecture popularized by Frank Lloyd Wright and others in the Midwest, including an emphasis on the horizontal and eaves that extend well outward. Next door the house at 3202 Claremont, also from 1920, has ornate features in the columned porch, brackets, dentils, cornice, and window design.



3202 Claremont Avenue

Turn left on Eton Avenue named for the exclusive English school. The street is lined with sweet gum trees (liquidambar) that have maple shaped leaves with long lasting red and orange colors in autumn. On the northeast corner 3151 Eton (9) is an upscale four-unit 1920 apartment building with Palladian style windows and a balcony over the entrance; it fits well into the single family home neighborhood in terms of scale and style.

The home with large front window and tiered front gable

at 3132 Eton (10) is by Lilian Bridgman, a design from 1920. She was one of the pioneer female architects along with Julia Morgan and like the latter was mentored by Bernard Maybeck. Originally from Kansas she took a master's degree in science at UC Berkeley, then became interested in architecture and returned to UC to study. She designed a number of homes in the Bay Area and Kansas, often in Craftsman style.

3118-3120 Eton (11) is a 1906 house, probably later renovated to become a duplex. It angles to the street to put it in alignment with Lewiston Street behind it; there is nicely varied carpentry work in the wood siding. In front is a huge redwood which has forced the construction of a new curving sidewalk around it, done in a cushiony material.

Next to it 3114 Eton is a Craftsman house in brown shingle with diamond pane windows, twin dormers and a grape vine over the porch.

Farther along turn right on Woolsey Street, named for an early settler who financed the first horse-car rail in Berkeley. 2802 Woolsey (12) on the curve is a brown-shingle style house with large brackets and the entry on the side. In spring there are lovely lavender rhododendrons blooming in front. 2810 Woolsey from 1915 is also brown-shingle style but a more unusual design with triple arches on the front and varied second floor dormers. In front of 2838 Woolsey (13) is a large Japanese maple with intense autumn leaf colors and across the street is a coast redwood. Two more tall redwoods, back to back are farther along on the left before getting to Claremont Avenue.

Turn left on Claremont Avenue. On the opposite side is the entry to the The Uplands street in the Claremont neighborhood with

distinctive pavilions and pillars with lamps on top, designed by UC campus architect John Galen Howard. On this side is a row of shops (14), the central portion in English Tudor Revival style. Businesses include the Escapist Comic Bookstore and Dark Carnival Bookstore (fantasy and science fiction). Then there is a coffee shop, the Star grocery, Afikomen Judaica (claims to be the Pacific Northwest's premier full service Judaica shop with everything from books to ritual items, jewelry, menorahs, toys etc), a cleaner, and an upholstery shop, making it a fairly comprehensive small retail center. The upscale Star Grocery was founded in 1922 by the Greek-American Pappas brothers and moved to this location in 1942, further expanding and adding the neon sign in 1949. Originally it was famous for delivering groceries in wicker baskets and later had a fleet of delivery trucks. It is one of the oldest grocery stores in Berkeley. Another Greek-American, Frank Andronico, founded his market on Solano in 1929.



Base of Redwood at 3118-20 Eton Avenue

Turn left on Prince Street, named after the favorite horse of Mr. Woolsey. Overall homes on this street tend to be a bit more modest compared to those on Lewiston, generally one to one and a half stories but there are lots of nice brown shingle and craftsman residences. They also express unique styles. On the opposite side the bungalow at 2843 Prince (15) from 1914 has horizontal board siding below but interesting vertical half timbering in the gable.

On the left side the charming 1922 house at 2838 Prince has a tall arched leaded glass window in front. It is supposedly a French style cottage built for an opera singer. (Zillow) 2828 Prince (1926) is a brown shingle craftsman with two units hidden by camellias, rhododendrons and tall magnolias.

Similar to Eton Street, Prince is lined with many sweet gum (liquidambar) trees; there are also Chinese pistache trees that provide additional brilliant autumn colors. 2816 Prince is like a bungalow in form but with Colonial Revival architectural details. Farther



2806 Prince Street

along 2806 Prince has lots of large rounded rocks in the porch wall and chimney. The house numbers are somewhat out of sync here but across the street 2763 Prince is a Craftsman bungalow with lots of exterior carpentry and brick on the chimney and porch piers. At 2800 Prince (16) is a large jacaranda tree with lots of blue/purple flowers in late spring/summer. Then 2736 Prince is another pretty 1920 Colonial Revival bungalow with a large angled bay that has six nicely proportioned windows as well as classical columns on the porch.

2725 Prince (17) is a fairly large 1920 apartment building with a very detailed facade including an entrance way that is set back and small stained glass windows beside the entrance as well as elaborate mullions in the upper part of the front windows. Despite its size it fits in well to the neighborhood. Next to it is the Chinese for Christ church with pillared entryway. On the left side 2716 Prince has a very tall and skinny Mexican fan palm in front.

SHORTCUT: If you need to cut the work short simply go left on College Avenue back to the starting point.

To continue the walk, turn right on College Avenue.

The Colonial Revival houses on the left from 3032 to 3026 College as well as father on from 3012 to 3004 College were designed, built and marketed by Leola Hall, another trailblazing woman architect, in 1906-07. A few doors down, the vertical 1916 duplex across the street at 3016-18 College (18) has windows with arched central sections that go virtually from side to side of the facade, bringing in ample light. Just down the road is another commercial area around the node of College and Ashby Avenues that is covered in the Elmwood Walk of our book *Berkeley Walks*. Feel free to explore its eateries and shops, but to continue this walk turn right on Webster Street.

2718 Webster is a large brown-shingle style house from 1911 with sizable brackets under the eaves. Across the street (19) are three houses (2719, 2721 and 2723 Webster) built between 1912 and 1918 that all have a large gable facing the street but different design details. Back on the south side 2722 Webster is a 1906 brown-shingle with a pergola all along the front near the sidewalk featuring plants such as purple flowering solanum and climbing rose.

Generally along this street are fairly large houses in brown shingle or stucco. Farther along 2754 Webster (20) from 1911 has a wide porch and unusual twin square corner turrets. Opposite this house turn left on Piedmont Avenue. On both corners are stone monument street markers for the entrance to Elmwood Park, which was developed by Breed and Bancroft from 1906 on the first block and a half west of College Avenue between Webster and Russell Streets. Farther along on the right 2957 Piedmont has elements of English Tudor Revival style with half-timbering and many gables.

Go left on Elmwood Avenue which has more big houses.

On the right 2735 Elmwood (21) from 1907 is notable for the brick foundation and porch with arches. The corner house at 2729 Elmwood is very impressive and has double rafters with interesting carved motifs on them as well as shelves with dentils over the lower windows. It was designed in 1910 by Walter H. Ratcliff Jr, who was also notable for ecclesiastical buildings, the downtown Wells Fargo tower, and many fine residences in a variety of styles. The impressive interior includes a 32-foot long living room on the west end with windows on three sides, a grand staircase and redwood paneling. On the left side 2728 Elmwood is a charming and unusual design with tall multi-paned windows and Craftsman carpentry.



Stone Marker for Elmwood Park

Go around the curve to Ashby Avenue named for an early ranching family. Originally Ashby did not cut diagonally through this block but this was done in 1952 to facilitate

traffic on Ashby from Tunnel Road since it had become State Highway 13. A subsequent plan to make this into a freeway caused a virtual revolt in Berkeley and thankfully it never happened.

In any case go right through the small median that has redwood trees to go east (right) on Ashby; along the right is a grassy area of public open space. Farther along at the northeast corner with Piedmont is 2801 Ashby (22) designed in 1914 by Maury I. Diggs, a very interesting character according to BAHA research. He had only a high school education and no formal architectural training but learned fast and later went on to design the spectacular Oakland Fox Theatre (previously credited to architectural firm Weeks and Day), Golden Gate Fields, San Quentin Prison and other important buildings. The impressive house is partly obscured by trees and shrubs.

On the near southeast corner at 2929 Piedmont Avenue is another house designed and built by Leola Hall, this one from 1912; it is called the Honeymoon House as she built it for her marriage with Herbert Coggins; it features a two story wood-paneled living room with excellent acoustics as they were both amateur musicians. She also did the next two houses at 2806 and 2808 Ashby, all three in stucco and in a very different style from the Colonial Revival homes on College Avenue built six years earlier. They include many Craftsman touches.

At the end of the block turn right on Linden Avenue, a narrow street with houses set fairly close to the sidewalk; it was named for the linden tree. Well down the block, 2955 Linden on the left is a Craftsman bungalow where the roof sweeps out in a long eave and there is a very wide dormer above. On the right side at 2960 Linden (23) from 1902 is a brown-shingle by Maybeck and White with an interesting history. It was originally built at 2608 Regent Street (about 10 blocks away) and early residents were the young architect Walter Ratcliff, Jr. and his wife. In 1959 it was moved to the current location in order to save it from the construction of an apartment building on

the Regent Street site. It has a big wisteria in front that largely obscures the facade but underneath is an angled bay with upper and lower windows.



2837 Webster Street

Turn left on Webster and then on the northeast corner with Magnolia Avenue is a large house at 2837 Webster (24), which is the oldest remaining house in the neighborhood from 1878-79, well before the Elmwood Park subdivision. It had a large lot extending to Ashby, but Magnolia street was put through the property and it was subdivided, the house

being moved to the east to accommodate the new street. It has brown shingle siding from an early 20th century renovation but the underlying style is actually Italianate which is from the early Victorian area. This is evident from window bay and gable designs as well as the rounded tops and shelf-like features over many of the second floor windows, The entrance is on Webster. It would seem that the part going back to the left on the Magnolia side is a later addition; whether due to renovation or initial design it has rather complex and unusual massing. The building was divided up into four living units during the twentieth century. It has had a colorful history including a dance studio run by flamboyant Grace Burroughs, a high profile divorce, and a murder.

Turn left on Magnolia Street which is a pleasant tree-lined narrow street. It is full of attractive and diverse homes as throughout this walk. On the right 2947 Magnolia (25), a Craftsman bungalow, was the home of artist Richard Diebenkorn around 1955. He was part of the Bay Area Figurative Movement and highly regarded for both abstract and figurative paintings and his ability to bridge the two genre. On the left 2948 Magnolia from 1908 is a brown-shingle design; the walls flare out at the bottom of each floor and the entrance is on the side. It also features a brick chimney, lovely first floor window mullions for the living room which goes all the way across the street side of the house, and a deck over the porch, a later addition.

Turn right on Ashby and right again on Pine Avenue. From 1906 this was subdivided as Pine Terrace and most of the homes date from 1906-07. The builder was Charles Manning MacGregor for around 20 cottages or the vast majority on this block. He was famous for his efficient, low-cost construction of middle class homes and was known as “One-Nail MacGregor” perhaps for his thriftiness. He later built around 1500 stucco bungalows in Albany and many other homes in Berkeley and they are generally considered very well built. Most of the homes on this block are Craftsman bungalows with board siding, but with considerable variety in design.



Typical MacGregor-Built Home on Pine Avenue

There are two options to return from here: (1) Slightly shorter is to go left on Webster and then right down Claremont. At Alcatraz bear right back to the starting point. (2) A little longer but perhaps quieter in terms of traffic is to go right on Webster and left on College back to the starting point. Or if you so desire you can go right on College to sample the eateries and other shops of the Elmwood shopping district.