

MORE BERKELEY WALKS- SERIES 1

by Robert E. Johnson

The walks feature:

- * 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
- * fascinating tidbits on architecture, famous people, street trees and more

WALK 22- BERKELEY WOODS

A hilly walk in Berkeley's northeast corner with forested areas, views, traditional and striking contemporary architecture, the sites of historic plant nurseries and a Lutheran seminary turned into a Muslim college.



WALK 23- UPPER SHATTUCK AND THE MARIN CIRCLE

A classic north Berkeley neighborhood of tree-lined streets, early 20th century homes in a variety of styles, rock outcrops, historical notes, some steep uphill segments and the iconic Marin Circle.

WALK 24- STRAWBERRY CREEK PARK AND THE SANTA FE RAILWAY

An easy stroll featuring a former railroad yard with daylighted creek turned into a public park, a train station turned into a school, and a mix of architecture going back to Victorian.



Walk 22

BERKELEY WOODS

Overview: This hilly walk in the northeast corner of Berkeley includes land formerly occupied by plant nurseries and features tall trees, views, a variety of 20th century architecture and a former seminary that became a Muslim college.

Highlights:

- * The homes and former nursery sites of famous horticulturalists
- * English Tudor, Mediterranean and contemporary architecture
- * Views toward Tilden Regional Park and San Francisco Bay

Distance: 3.1 miles; 2.25 miles without optional side trips

Elevation gain: 600 feet; 420 feet without side trips

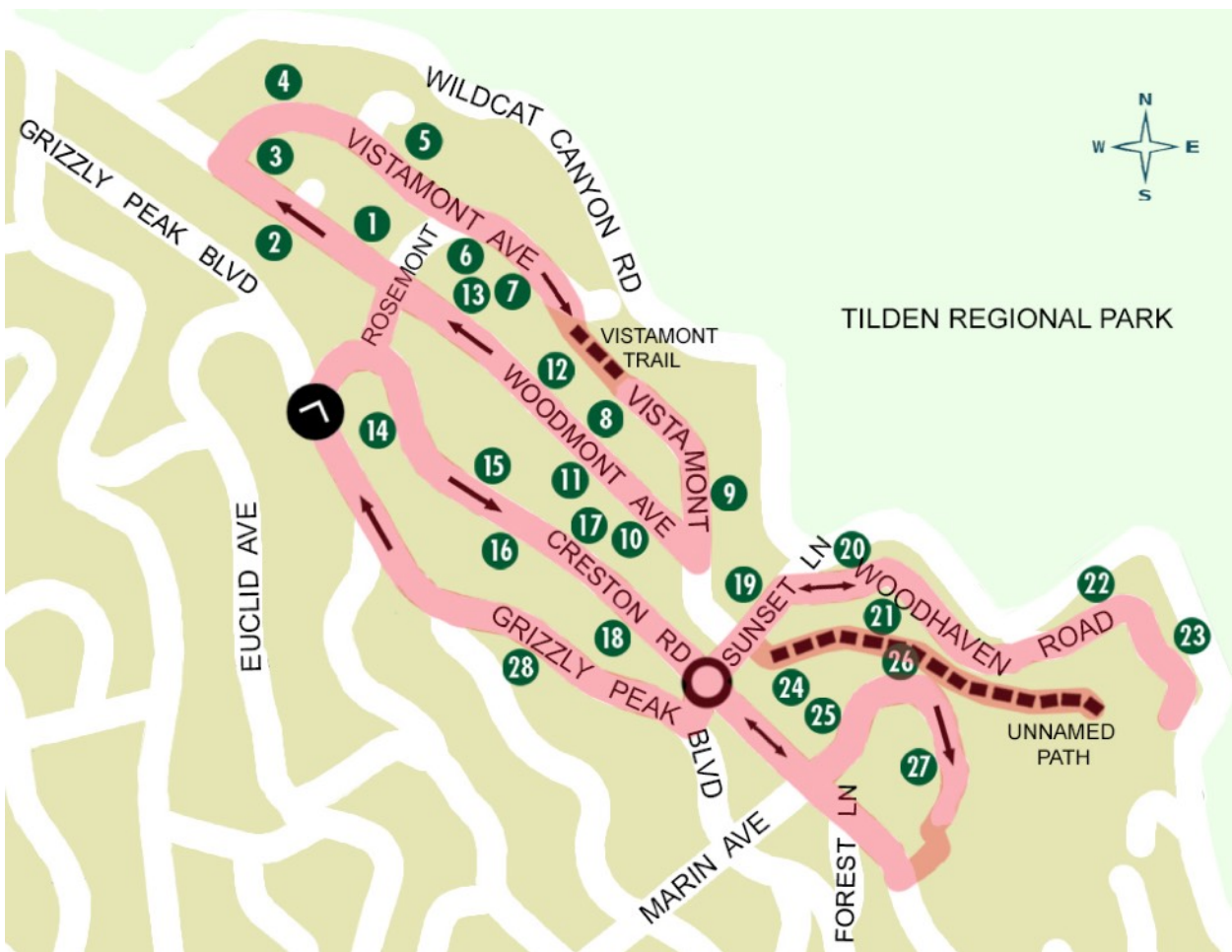
Getting there: Start at the northeast corner of Creston Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard across from 596 Grizzly Peak just a bit south of the intersection of Euclid Avenue and Grizzly (be aware that Creston also intersects Grizzly Peak much farther south). There is a stop nearby for the #65 bus from downtown Berkeley though it runs infrequently. Parking is generally easy on Grizzly Peak.

Several of the streets in this area combine the word mont for mountain with another word such as rose, wood or vista.

Ascend Creston, going left on Rosemont Avenue where Creston keeps curving to the right. Proceed one short block and turn left on Woodmont Avenue, heading downhill. Second on the right at 571 Woodmont (1) is the John A. Carbone home which was built in Mediterranean style in 1937 and significantly enlarged in 1990, retaining the original style and making it even grander with its orange tile roof, white stucco walls and large rounded bay window on the front; it also has nice gardens.



571 Woodmont



John A. Carbone immigrated to the U.S. from Italy in 1883 at the age of 18 and came to Berkeley around 1888, working as a gardener and rapidly expanding his nursery business between 4th and 5th streets at Allston Way in West Berkeley. From roses and carnations he shifted his focus to orchids where he attained an impressive reputation for new cultivars and hybrids and was known as the Orchid King. He won best of show at the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco and many subsequent prizes. Carbone also became active in Berkeley civic affairs. With increasing industrialization in West Berkeley he bought land in the Woodmont area in 1929 for his nurseries which extended down to the intersection with Vistamont, and he built his home here near the top of the property in 1937. The business went to his son who retired in 1959 and a daughter and grandson thereafter. With lower demand and rising costs the three acres of nurseries including eight greenhouses were closed and the land sold for subdivision development during the 1960s.

Across the street at 570 Woodmont is a Bernard Maybeck-designed cottage from 1924, rather rustic in appearance with vertical board siding. It was built as a hillside retreat for Isaac Flagg, a UC professor of Greek who also lived in an impressive Victorian house at Milvia and Francisco Streets and later had a Maybeck-designed house at 1200 Shattuck Avenue. Maybeck was very fond of chimney design, and the one at the north end of the house is mainly in stone. A second floor addition was added later. The 1968 house next door at 566 Woodmont is partly hidden. It has wood shingle siding and

BAHA notes the influence of the Sea Ranch development in the design, for example in the shingle siding and high window under the top of a sloping roof section.

Stephen Block was the developer for 18 lots on the site of the Carbone greenhouses in this area. The first plan for 100 townhouses was opposed by neighbors. Designed by architect Fred Karren, the single family homes were all built in 1968-72 in unpainted wood and shingles. Some retain that look but many have been altered over the years. There is also a private pool for the residents of this community behind the fence at the northeast corner of Woodmont Avenue and Woodmont Court. Downhill from the pool 551 Woodmont, which was the model home for the subdivision, has a contemporary metal gate featuring plants and animals.

On the left side the Grunland house at 544 Woodmont (2) was designed by early modernist architect Henry Hill in 1948; a second floor was added in 1960. An apple orchard was originally in the yard to the south. The more recent owner Paul Grunland, who died in 2018 at the age of 93, grew up in Berkeley and was keen on researching the history of this area in which he led many walking tours. He was a board member of the Berkeley Historical Society—where he encouraged Bob Johnson to get involved in leading walks for the group—and a long time member of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association. He also helped in founding the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association and was an active hiker and skier well into his later years.

Turn right on Vistamont Avenue, noting two contemporary style houses from the corner on the south side (3): the first in wood with numerous balconies (541 Woodmont from 1969) and the second in orange stucco (520 Vistamont from 1973). Just beyond this on the left behind a fence at 541 Vistamont (4) is a simpler country style house from 1926 in unpainted wood in board and batten pattern, a contrast to the many contemporary style homes in the area. It was the first house on Vistamont, even before the Carbone nursery across the street. The original owner was Albert McDermont, a junior high science teacher in Berkeley, and the home remained in the family until his wife's death in 1972.



561 Vistamont

Another house with traditional architecture is the 1942 home at 555 Vistamont in Spanish Eclectic Style with a square corner turret. Farther uphill the house at 561 Vistamont is actually a radical renovation from around 2002 rather than an all new structure, which resulted in quirky angles for the roof, walls and windows. At 563 Vistamont (5) is a large house from around 2012 that is a vast remake and expansion of a 1949 small cottage; it has wood and stucco siding and fits the recent trend toward complex massing

and mixed materials. There are two very large Monterey cypress trees in front. On the right 574 and 476 Vistamont from 1969 and 1971 are examples of an earlier period of postwar design, originally in brown shingles although 576 now has stucco siding. 576 was designed by Fred Karren who also did many other homes in the area.

At the southwest corner of the next intersection 10 Rosemont (6) is a 1959 mid-century modernist design by architect Henry Hill with tall windows, set amidst redwoods and with some abstract sculptures in primary colors set in the garden.



10 Rosemont

Continue south on Vistamont with some partial views of the hills in Tilden Regional Park to the left and more contemporary style homes, including a 1977

house painted all gray up on a steep hillside at 612 Vistamont (7) on the right; the roof over the carport serves as a deck. Just past 616 Vistamont and before the pavement descends steeply take a small dirt path to the right signed Vistamont Trail; the sign may be missing or covered in ivy. After descending some wooden tie steps eventually pass a fence and find concrete “stepping stones”. To the right is a house with some Japanese influenced design elements and a large yard. The address of 626 Vistamont for this 1961 house is not visible until the mailbox on the far side of the property, but it is the only home on the right side of the trail.

Emerge onto a driveway and take that up to a gravel road, continuing to head south. Another driveway comes in from the left for a house whose address is actually on Wildcat Canyon Road. From just beyond the house you can perhaps peek over the lower parts of the hedge to see a garden that has some lovely flowering cherries in early spring and also uses the Japanese technique of “borrowed landscape” in which the distant hills of Tilden Park appear to be an extension of the garden—Wildcat Canyon Road being partly hidden by the slope and the plantings.

Across the gravel road on the right is the back side of a large, contemporary house (8) with wood siding, big windows and tower-like wisteria trellises beside the driveway entrance. The other side of the house will be visible later at 651 Woodmont. The next house at 650 Vistamont was built in 1960, and the gardens were renovated around 2012 with lots of large boulders, bamboo, rhododendrons and some Japanese style pruning.

Continue on the paved road as Vistamont curves to the right noting 667 Vistamont (9) on the left where behind the garage a 1939 International Style house is built with angling walls. It was designed by Michael Goodman, a UC professor, for Helen Crandall, a local high school teacher.

Then make a very sharp right to go north again on Woodmont. On the left 672 Woodmont (10) from the 1930s is rather like a rustic country retreat. The house next door at 670 Woodmont was the home of Gene Kloss, a renowned American artist who lived in this area for many years with her husband Phillip, a poet and composer, though they spent time every year in Taos and Carmel before moving to Taos full time in 1960. She did oil paintings and watercolors but was particularly known for her etchings of the scenery and Pueblo people in New Mexico. 663 Woodmont on the right is a wood-sided 1933 ranch style house with the structures forming a U around the paved area; there is a huge wisteria along the front of the house.



666 Woodmont

At 666, 664 and 660 Woodmont (11) are three houses from around 1953 by Roger Yuen Lee in a location where there was another nursery. Lee designed more than 100 homes, mostly in the East Bay, providing thoughtful modernism for middle class buyers. Built on a hillside they place the open garages underneath the homes. There is a combination of flat and angled roofs, large areas of window, an open plan and a patio in the back designed so that it becomes an outdoor extension of the rooms.

Opposite these 657 Woodmont was the 1925 home of horticulturalist Carl Salbach who had gradually given up management of a typewriter company to focus on flowers. He bought four acres of land to the north and east of where the house was built and also acquired the iris stock of neighbor Sydney Mitchell [see below] and thereafter focused mainly on irises. There were also flowering cherries, rhododendrons and other plants in a lovely garden. The nursery was here until Salbach retired in 1959 and the land was subdivided. The Monterey Colonial Revival house has been expanded since it was built in 1925 though it can be a bit difficult to see well from the street due to shrubbery.

The next house at 651 Woodmont (best seen from the gate) was built in 1967 and modified and greatly expanded in 1994. This is the front of the house you saw with the wisteria gateway on Vistamont. Under the glass roof of the structure in front is a swimming pool and over it a tall Japanese cherry blossom tree whose pale pink petals waft down onto the glass in spring, which must create an effect like snow for the swimmer.

Continuing uphill, just before the 1923 stucco house at 633 Woodmont (12) is another view east toward the hills of Tilden Park. This was the home of Professor Sidney B. Mitchell, renowned in Library Science and for establishing a postgraduate program at UC in Librarianship. However, he was also another horticulturalist who helped found the American Iris Society and the American Fuchsia Society. He developed new hybrid varieties of bearded iris on his three acre property and later sold the stock to Carl Salbach though he continued to develop iris varieties and some can still be found in the garden.

640 Woodmont on the left side has an Asian style gate with wood, shingles and glazed tiles. On the right is a hedge of quince with lovely pink flowers from late winter well into spring. There is a driveway sweeping uphill to 634 Woodmont, which is built in the middle of the block and very difficult to see from the street. The 2011 house rises up at the crest of the ridge surrounded by a grove of redwoods and other trees like a large, elegant tree house with tall glass panes around the second floor main rooms. At 625 Woodmont is a 1976 white house built in an L around an unusual front courtyard with a circular opening above it, and there is a semicircular bay on the south side. The original design was by Berkeley modernist Donald Olsen who taught architecture at UC; the house was later renovated to replace wood siding with stucco.

After this on the right are two English Tudor houses. The one at 615 Woodmont has a welcoming front and an excellent setting, built in 1917 with an addition in 1926. It has half-timbering, a steep roof and large brick chimneys. The house was designed by Menetta White Books Daniel who was the daughter of a distinguished zoologist at John Hopkins University. Her husband John Franklin Daniel was a graduate student there and ultimately came to Berkeley with



615 Woodmont

Menetta where he taught zoology for 32 years at UC Berkeley. The sweeping drive and large front lawn help give the home the air of an English country estate. It was subsequently the home of Keith Marcelius, a co-founder of the software firm Autodesk.

Then at 605 Woodmont (13) is another Tudor Revival with a unique history. The right portion of the house was originally built for the Holt Manufacturing Company which made farming and construction machinery; the structure was part of their exhibit at

the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco. It was used as a reception place for guests and included showings of motion pictures. UC Professor Arthur Pope and his wife Bertha, a high school teacher, then purchased the cottage and had it barged across the bay and pulled uphill by tractors and horses to be the first home in the area. They added the left side addition to make the grand home you see today. It has impressive half-timbering and a large bay window in front. Unfortunately the foliage has grown up in recent years so that it can be difficult to see the house, which now comprises 5,122 square feet of space. At one time it was the home of the family of Tom Fogerty, who was part of the rock band Credence Clearwater Revival and later a solo performer. There are more quince in front of the fence.

At the southeast corner with Rosemont, number 6 is a 1959 house built above a garage with smany rhododendron shrubs along Woodmont that bloom in various colors in spring.

Turn left on Rosemont and then left again to ascend south up Creston Road, named for the fact that it generally stays close to the crest of the ridge. In the latter part of the long block there are quite a few of the North Cragmont subdivision homes that were built in a one-story L or U-shape with the garage projecting out at one side. Many have since been remodeled and there is also quite a variety of other house designs, especially along the first part of the block. At 641 Creston on the left is a house built in 1993 that perhaps tries a little too hard to be neo traditional with myriad gables and various window designs but is still fun to look at. The house at 666 Creston (14) on the right with a long, stepped wooden fence has a number of tall eucalyptus trees in the south yard and also some filtered views from the street towards the bay. The original 1939 house at 699 Creston had a dramatic remake in 2015 and has become even more angular and complex, featuring more window area than the original home.



714 Creston

On the right 706 Creston (15) is a 1987 home built by the owners with an attractive mix of contemporary and traditional design elements responsive to the site as with the philosophy of earlier architects such as Maybeck, Morgan and Wurster. At 714 Creston (16) is a major 2012 remake by architect David Wilson of a 1937 house with further renovation in 2017. It follows a recent trend in the area in placing large windows on the street side and then putting up a concrete wall facing the street to preserve privacy. The squared steel arches on the front path have wooden beams underneath that

give strong perspective lines pointing at the entrance. Across the street 715 Creston is an English Tudor home with half-timbering, stucco and brick from 1937. It's wooden fence and shrubbery give a warmer ambiance than a concrete wall. 720 Creston is a cute 1935 traditional style house with shutters; if the curtains are open you can see through the house for a view of the bay.

727 Creston (17) on the left from 1938 has a very high peaked roof, slightly protruding front gable, some brick work, a dormer and diamond paned windows that give it the character of an English rural cottage. Farther along on the right 766 Creston (18) from 1935 is even more like an English cottage, set amongst trees that include a Japanese maple near the street and another near the house with their brilliant colors in autumn. Across the street note a tiny rooftop view room at 769 Creston.

From this point there are a couple of optional side trips: (A) to a street with some unusual contemporary style homes and/or (B) to a little known public trail. Either gives a bit more exercise and has some park views to the east. To skip the optional sections continue across Sunset Lane on Creston and jump to *** on page 10.

(A) First option to see unique homes on Woodhaven and park views: turn left on Sunset Lane and in March/April the house at the northeast corner of Woodmont and Sunset may have a Japanese cherry blossom in full bloom next to the street. Proceed downhill on Sunset beyond Woodmont passing on the left a Spanish Eclectic Style house at 65 Sunset (19) with terraces and balconies as well as some cacti in the front garden.

Just after this turn right on Woodhaven Road (before the stop sign at the bottom of Sunset). The street is unusual in having even numbered addresses on the east side but this is because the addresses are actually for Wildcat Canyon Road which is down the hill on the other side of the lots (even though the driveways are mostly on Woodhaven). Moreover, there is a mixture of even and odd on the west side of the street. The first house on the left at 700 Wildcat Canyon (20) is from 1972 and is covered in wood shingles with some unconventional slanting walls and protruding window openings. While ascending note that due to the steep slope some houses on the left drop down 2-3 stories from street level. There is a nice wooded slope on the right side.

As you reach the top of the rise on the right side there is a view of Tilden Park looking over a parking deck for 720 Wildcat Canyon; the house is virtually hidden down below. On the right side 723 Woodhaven (21) has wooden lattices over the walls though it is not clear what purpose they serve. As you proceed, the slope along the right features some native plants



Tilden Park from Woodhaven

such as live oak, toyon (with bright red berries in winter), coffeeberry, black sage, yarrow etc., as well as many succulents, pride of Madeira, rosemary, dietes and other drought-tolerant non-natives.

A little farther along the street descends; go straight past the connector to Wild Canyon Road on the left as Woodhaven ascends again. Uphill on the right is an East Bay Municipal Utility District water tank. The carport at 760 Wildcat Canyon (22) has some attractive stained glass and the main house itself is an impressive 1962 contemporary design with a floor plan in the shape of a cross; you can catch glimpses of the house looking over the lower portions of the fence.



780 Wildcat Canyon entryway

Then on the left with the address of 780 Wildcat Canyon the distinctive red 1975 house (largely hidden by foliage) has a pedestrian bridge from the street to the front door. The next house, 782 Wildcat Canyon, has a large trellis over the patio supporting grapes and other vines.

On the right the garden at 798 Wildcat Canyon has a slope full of different kinds of fragrant lavender as well as many succulents. Opposite this, 790 Wildcat Canyon (23) from 1966 features wood shingles, a long band of windows, and a pleasant trellised deck set down the right side; the steep lot has full views of the park. At the cul-de-sac end of the street 800 Wildcat Canyon, the house uphill to the right, did not have an

exterior stairway up to the door for a long time after its initial 1999 construction which must have made it tricky to enter through the rear door on a steep and muddy slope. Presumably there was an interior stair or elevator from the garage.

Retrace your steps up, down, up and down Woodhaven back to Sunset. Go left up the steep hill and continue on Sunset to the stop sign at Creston where you have finished the side trip to rejoin the main walk *** (page 10).

(B) Second option to take a virtually unknown trail and enjoy some more views: go left a short distance on Sunset from Creston; opposite where Woodmont intersects Sunset and there is a sign saying “not a through street” go right (the address is actually 800 Woodmont). After a low wooden fence and just before the pavement goes uphill take an unmarked dirt trail to the left. After entering the trail note the gazebo and the

house up the hill (24) designed by modernist architect Mario Corbett in 1959 with ample windows to enjoy the giant oak tree, gardens and rear swimming pool.

The trail may be overgrown at first but is generally fairly open after this part. On the right you can see the aforementioned huge California live oak next to the house. Just past the first house another residence high up on the crest of the ridge is quite large and must command great views; it is a Joe Esherick designed house which we will note a little later as the entrance is on the opposite side from Marin Avenue. The trail ascends a little and then follows the contour around to the right, passing above the houses on Woodhaven with another slope on the right that sometimes features native plants such as a hillside full of tall cow parsnip. Be alert for Tilden Park views to the left. The trail is rather a secret, except to local dog walkers. There are several swimming pools in back yards down to the left. You will pass above the EBMUD water tank. It would be nice if you could connect down to Woodhaven but there is no proper trail and a fence has been put in with no trespassing signs. After a graffiti covered wood retaining wall on the right the main trail seems to peter out so return the way you came and turn left on Sunset to Creston and ***.

*** Proceed one block uphill on Creston and turn left on Marin Avenue. On the left at 2719 Marin (25) you will pass a 1961 house set amidst native live oak trees designed by noted Bay Area architect Ian Mackinlay. Part of the roof is flat but there are three hipped roofs covered in ceramic tiles that extend outward from the main house. Each of these long pavilion-like structures has extensive glass at one end opening onto a fairly sizable deck. The house preserves many of the original elements of its award-winning Mid-Century Modern design inside as well as on the exterior.



Roofs of 2719 Marin

2727 Marin (26) where Marin angles right is a 1952 design by Joe Esherick, who believed in homes appropriate for client needs and their environment; it is superbly sited here with a very wide view of Tilden Park. There are some Japanese elements such as in the materials and roof design (though much of the roof is now covered in shiny solar panels). A 2010 addition was placed off to the right, sensitively set apart and connected by an open corridor so as not to detract from the original design.

Going around to the right you enter the grounds of the former Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary—now the Zaytuna College. Having moved to 2000 Center Street in downtown Berkeley, PLTS is the only Lutheran seminary in the western half of the

U.S. It was originally founded in Portland, Oregon in 1910. It moved to this Berkeley hilltop site around 1952 and was a co-founder in 1960 of the nine member Graduate Theological Union, which includes other schools and seminaries in partnership with UC Berkeley. It sold the Marin Avenue site here in 2017 due to declining enrollment and the cost of maintaining the campus, as well as the distance from other GTU sites.

Zaytuna College which bought the site in 2017 is the first Muslim liberal arts college in the US and has a campus on the north side of UC at the former University Christian church that it acquired in 2012. It is using this campus to expand its programs to include graduate studies and become a member of the GTU. Initially it did not plan any major changes to the campus buildings.



Sophia Hall at Zaytuna College

The 9-acre campus includes two earlier residences. Sophia Hall (27) —the former Sawyer Hall—is first on the right; it was the 1930 home of Rev. Hugh Dobbins and his wife Roberta Lloyd Dobbins and was designed by James Mitchell. Roberta's father had struck it rich when oil was discovered on the family's southern California ranch and Reverend Dobbins and Roberta traveled often to Italy, falling in love with country villas. Thus this house seeks to recreate an Italian villa with a complex floor pattern, one and two story sections, a courtyard, stucco walls, a tile roof, a tower and a

loggia. Some elements remain of the extensive original landscape design by Thomas Church. Opposite are views of Tilden Regional Park.

As you proceed along the drive on the left is a dormitory building from the mid-1950s and then going uphill there are more views of the park through the trees. At the top of the hill on the right is a large Monterey Revival house designed in 1930 by Mark Daniels, a famous landscape architect who laid out the Forest Hill and Sea Cliff neighborhoods in San Francisco, the Thousand Oaks area in Berkeley, Bel-Air in southern California and the 17-Mile drive in Monterey. He was also Yosemite Park superintendent and the first landscape architect of the National Park Service. The original owner was John Henry Nash, an extremely successful printer. The house has a formal garden in the front that is mainly intact from the original design. The inside features twelve rooms including a sumptuous two-story grand hall. Further features such as balconies are seen as you angle around to the right to see the side and back. In the rear there is also a large Canary Island palm tree.

To the left is the wildly sloping roof of the former Chapel of the Cross from 1965, now the Zaytuna Auditorium, which provided classroom space as well as a worship sanctuary. Architect James Morrison Leefe supposedly modeled it after the famous Le

Corbusier chapel in Ronchamp France. To the right is a 1958 Mid-Century Modern classroom building designed by Robert Ratcliff, who carried on the architectural firm founded by his father, Walter Ratcliff Jr.

Go left around the chapel, noting fenced off gardens for vegetables and other plants and go back a bit toward a gate in the wooden fence on the other side of the paved road from the building. Going through the gate take the paved drive to the left which immediately angles right and down towards the street. On the right is a garden with gazebo and some crabapple trees with pink blossoms in early spring as well as a Japanese persimmon tree, and on the left an English style house designed in 1935 by Walter Ratcliff Jr. If the path to the driveway is closed off return back through the college and down Marin to Creston.

At Creston go right and keep well to the right edge of the road as cars tend to go a bit fast on this road with no sidewalks.

When you get to the stop sign at Marin. There are two alternatives:

- (1) cross Marin carefully and go left down Marin, taking care as some cars tend not to stop properly at the signs. At Grizzly Peak Boulevard cross the street and go right (north) on the sidewalk of Grizzly Peak several blocks back to your starting point near the intersection with Creston. On this route at 726 Grizzly Peak (28) you will pass the former home of legendary football coach Lynn Osbert (Pappy) Waldorf, who in his tenure at Cal (1947-56) coached the Golden Bears to three conference titles. He fell in love with the Bay Area and was a recruitment coach for the 49ers and stayed on here in retirement in this home from 1954 until his death in 1981 when his wife Louise continued to live in the home.
- (2) Cross Marin and go straight on Creston, carefully crossing Sunset at the stop sign and continuing on Creston back to the starting point. The latter route does not have a sidewalk like Grizzly Peak and does have some up and down but it is quieter in terms of traffic.

Either way from Creston and Grizzly Peak the bus stop is on the southeast corner or if you proceed a bit further on Grizzly Peak, cross Euclid and go a few steps left there is another stop for the 65 bus heading towards downtown that has a bench for sitting.

Walk 23

UPPER SHATTUCK AND THE MARIN CIRCLE

Overview: This north Berkeley neighborhood between Live Oak Park and the Marin Circle is characterized by striking historic architecture, mature leafy street trees, quiet paths and large volcanic rock outcroppings; it includes some steep uphill sections.

Highlights:

- * The iconic Marin Circle, part of a failed state capital bid
- * A rich variety of early 20th century homes including many by master architects
- * Curving residential streets following the hilly contours

Distance: 4.2 miles; 2.2 miles with optional shortcut

Elevation gain: 850 feet; 340 feet for shortcut version

Getting there: Start at the northwest corner of Shattuck Avenue and Eunice Street. Via AC Transit, walk up one block from Henry Street (bus stop is before Eunice in either direction). Street parking is usually available. Note that at Eunice, Henry Street changes its name to Sutter Street going north. The 4.2-mile walk can easily be divided into two shorter walks of just over 2 miles, with each starting and ending at Eunice and Shattuck; the second part is a bit steeper with more elevation gain.

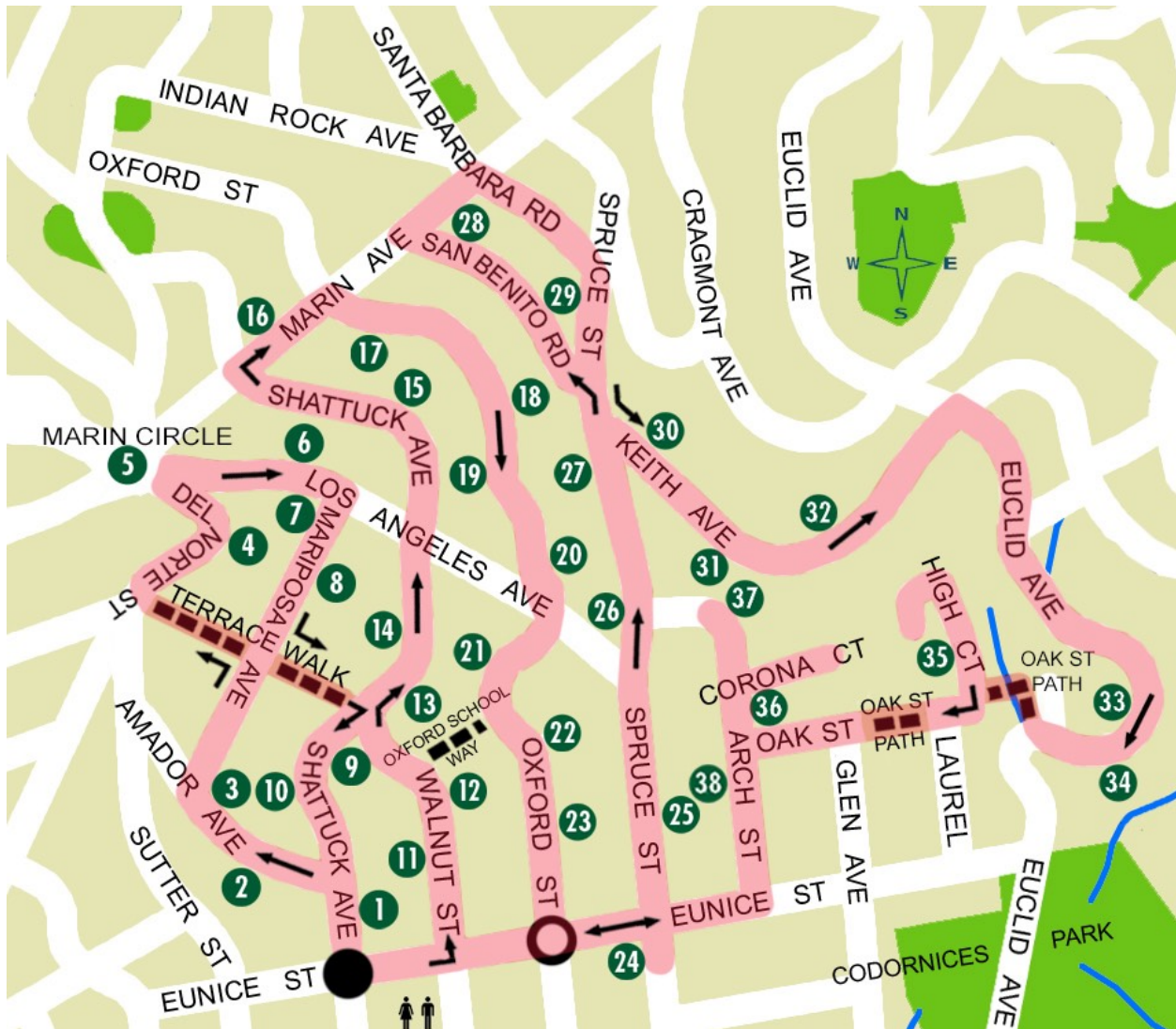
These residential streets include the winding and tranquil upper part of Shattuck Avenue which is very different from the wide and busy boulevard that Shattuck is a few blocks farther south. The area was built out mainly in the first three decades of the twentieth century and includes the homes of people notable in Berkeley or national history.

Walk north along Shattuck (with the hills to your right). This walk includes numerous iconic Berkeley brown-shingle houses built from the early 1900s to the early 2000s. Across the street at 1157 Shattuck (1), a three-story brown-shingle house from 1908 has large brackets supporting the eaves



1157 Shattuck

and a different pattern of wood planks or shingles on each floor. The 1924 house at 1151 Shattuck in stucco has varied gables both front and side as well as big large carved brackets supporting the porch roof.



Turn left on Amador Avenue. The fourth house on the left at 1148 Amador (2) is Blake House from 1911, another three-story Berkeley brown-shingle style with steep gables on both the front and sides that curve out at the bottom; it also features multi-paned windows. Note also how the shingles curve over the arched window and the entryway. The home was designed by Charles Sumner Kaiser, who in this case was heavily influenced by the English Arts and Crafts movement. He came to Berkeley in 1906, and in addition to designs in Berkeley and San Francisco did numerous well-regarded houses in Palo Alto. In 1917 he changed his name to Charles Kaiser Sumner to avoid World War I anti-German sentiment.

In addition to brown-shingle, this neighborhood is rich in stucco houses. Just after 1124 Amador cross the street to go right on Mariposa Avenue, which is lined on both

sides with stately residences and large plane trees (sycamores) that form a green tunnel over the street when in leaf, as though one has entered a forest. Even in winter the branch pattern is impressive. This street is closed off on Halloween when it is visited by children from throughout Berkeley.

John Hudson Thomas designed the house at the Northeast corner, 1081 Mariposa (3). Although the windows have been replaced with more modern ones, the house is still notable for the large percentage of surface area devoted to windows, the imposing massing, and the rectangular bay in the rear corner. Hudson also did the home at 1069 Mariposa which features living quarters over the garage.

Just after 1046 Mariposa on the left turn to descend on Terrace Walk. There are three houses on the right and two on the left with the entrances directly on the path (rather than onto a street), for the most part without garages or driveways. At Sutter Street, turn right noting the wide steps with balustrade going up to the right of the tunnel entrance; then immediately bear right to ascend curving Del Norte Street.

On this side, 2012 Del Norte is a colorful Mediterranean style house from 1926 that was renovated and expanded toward the street. Most of the houses on this curving uphill block are set amongst mature trees, and 2032 and 2034 Del Norte (4), both from around 1927, have features of English Tudor in their design.



The Marin Circle

Del Norte ends at Berkeley's Marin Circle (5), which was laid out as part of an early plan to lure the state capital to Berkeley. The Capitol building was to be located near the circle, and many of the surrounding streets are named for California counties or cities (Marin, Mariposa, Amador, Del Norte, Los Angeles, The Alameda, Santa Rosa, Vallejo and so on). Marin Avenue, which runs straight up the steep hill, was designed for a cable car line. The city lost the vote in 1908, the capital stayed in Sacramento, and

the cable car was never installed, but a residential area was built out on the streets, most of which curve to follow the contours.

In the middle of the circle is a fountain with bear cubs that is a replica of the original built in 1911. John Galen Howard, the UC campus architect for many years, designed the circle and fountain while Arthur Putnam created the original sculpture, which

Sarita White later recreated. In 1957 the fountain was destroyed by a runaway truck coming down Marin, and there was nothing but a grassy patch here for many years.

In 1996, after a lot of work, a community group (Friends of the Fountain and Walk) was able to restore the fountain as a private public works project and a gift to the city of Berkeley; the fountain runs all the time and is lighted at night. Then in 2007 another runaway truck took out some of the historic concrete railings on one side, but they have also been replaced with much effort. Local volunteers from the neighborhood group can often be seen cleaning and landscaping the area. In 2015, the city of Berkeley did a thorough renovation of the fountain's plumbing.

The Fountain Walk stairway is on the left. Across the way, the lower (downhill) section of Los Angeles Avenue leads to The Alameda not far from Solano Avenue, a busy commercial street. The tunnel that you may have noticed when turning to walk up Del Norte runs under the circle, taking drivers to the top of Solano Avenue; it was originally built for a streetcar line.

After enjoying a look at the fountain and frenetic traffic turn right up Los Angeles Avenue. The first house on the right, 2000 Los Angeles, seems modest from the sidewalk in front but it is actually a five-bedroom, 3,500-square-foot Spanish-style house built in 1925, with rich ornamentation around the door and a two-story bay window on the Marin Circle side.



2022 Los Angeles

Across the street, 2011 Los Angeles is a 1928 house with an asymmetrical gable and small arched windows, their descending pattern suggesting an interior stairway. The wood-sided house with many gables at 2022 Los Angeles was designed in 1909 by Walter Ratcliff, Jr., for the cashier of Mason-McDuffie, the development group he later worked for. The house has a large wrap-around deck on the downhill side, which cannot be clearly seen from here.

At 2035 Los Angeles (6) on the left, another tall house has fine detailing on the Craftsman-style windows and a section in the middle projecting outward at the top of the entrance stairs which go up from the left side. The 1916 house has a large planter box with brackets on the protruding section and another smaller one in the same style below, like an offspring of the upper box.

As you approach and turn right at the corner of Mariposa, look over the fence to see an unusual contemporary style house at 1000 Mariposa (7) from 1960 with curving roof and walls as well as tall windows. Continue down Mariposa which gets little traffic. The brown-shingle at 1021 Mariposa (8) has a porch atop high red brick walls. Another brown-shingle at 1024 Mariposa has its main entrance on the house's south side rather than facing the street, a design element seen in historic upscale urban neighborhoods, such as San Francisco's Pacific Heights. This 1912 residence also has a rectangular bay over the entryway.

When you get to Terrace Walk, after 1040 Mariposa on the right (or after 1045 on the left side of the street), cross left this time and walk uphill on the path. Notice the large Mediterranean style house midblock at 70 Terrace Walk and the craftsman on the other side at number 81. At Shattuck, look across the street and to the right. On the southeast corner with Walnut, 1101 Shattuck (9) has nicely detailed windows and wooden door. Turning right on Shattuck, 1100 Shattuck is Mediterranean style with a red tile roof, 1108 has lovely round-arched windows and door while 1111 Shattuck across the street is a finely proportioned example of early modern architecture from 1927 that deviates from the predominant neighborhood styles.



1130 Shattuck

At 1130 Shattuck (10), the 1913 house designed by John Hudson Thomas has beautifully proportioned and latticed windows over an arched entranceway and eaves that extend straight out, giving a dramatic flare to the roofline. The landscaping includes a bench near the sidewalk for public use. Thomas "signed" his houses with four squares and parallel vertical lines; can you find them on the walls? A bit farther along a massive redwood trunk is on the right between two garages.

After passing Amador, you'll return to the starting point. Turn left up Eunice, which is divided going uphill from here with the south side of the street curving right at a lower level to head south on Walnut Street and the west side going straight uphill to meet Walnut farther up and continue beyond. Turn left on Walnut. However, if you need a restroom instead take a short walk to the right on Walnut which will bring you to one in Live Oak Park just before the tennis courts. Eventually continuing left or north on Walnut, the street is lined on both sides with mature Japanese maples, which turn bright colors in autumn if it is not a drought year; they have a delicate branch pattern in winter.

At 1148 Walnut (11), the charming 1926 house with side entrance is painted red with cream trim. It has a steep jerkinhead gable on the street side and dormers on the entry side. Next door at 1140 Walnut, the Children's Community Center, founded in 1928, claims to be the oldest "parent participation, continually operating cooperative preschool," west of the Mississippi River. A bright mosaic is to the right of the entrance. Farther



Children's Community Center

along and across the street, Oxford Elementary (12), a Berkeley public school, has a colorful mural on its playground wall. On the left at 1132 Walnut, a deodar cedar with tall candelabra-like arms reaching up, resembles a forest arising from a single trunk.

At the T intersection, turn right and cross over Walnut, then turn left to cross Shattuck in the crosswalk. Go right (north) on Shattuck in the opposite direction from when you came up Terrace Walk earlier. On the right is 1041 Shattuck (13), with a half-timbered garage featuring cross gables and living quarters above. Partly hidden by trees above this structure is a large, half-timbered 1910 house, designed by Walter Ratcliff who also did the garage design.

Notice how much bigger the houses on this block tend to be than on Walnut. Next door, 1035 Shattuck, a 1909 design by John Hudson Thomas, has three kinds of siding: board and batten, shingles and clapboard; a large primeval-looking garden with big tree ferns is on the slope to the right. It is said that the house was built from a single, huge old-growth redwood tree harvested on his north coast ranch by Duncan MacKerricher, father of the woman who lived here for a great many years. In 1916 Thomas also designed neighboring 1033 Shattuck with a complex roofline, diverse window designs, subtle ornamentation on the central gable, and a tall bay window with an inset dormer above it. On the left side, 1026 Shattuck (14) has African-inspired designs painted on the exterior, including a gecko as well as giant yucca; there are thin, long-leaved bamboo stalks in the garden. There are some more fine Berkeley brown-shingle homes from various periods as you continue along the street.

Carefully cross Los Angeles and continue on Shattuck. About a half a block along the street, on the curve, 935 Shattuck (15)—a storybook home designed in 1929 by W.W. Dixon—has a high arched window in a stucco wall that emerges from a large rock outcrop. A seasonal stream flows around the south side of the house into a small pond, overgrown with horsetail ferns and other plants.

Two doors down, 931 Shattuck (built in 1920) was the home of Harry Noyes Pratt in the mid-1920s. Pratt was a poet and short story writer, but more importantly a tireless booster of California culture. As editor of the *Overland Monthly* literary magazine, art critic for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, director of the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, and president of the California Writer's Club, Pratt was able to help promote the careers of young California writers and artists. At 920 Shattuck, the 1909 brown shingle designed by Ratcliff, has an asymmetrical gable that gives it an off-kilter feeling. The entrance is on the north side, not in the usual manner facing the street.

Continue on to Marin and turn right, noting across the street at 2101 Marin (16) on the northeast corner a huge rock outcrop in the front yard. Just up the street and also on the other side at 2119 Marin, another Ratcliff design from 1910 has a roof that sweeps around under the gable like an apron with deeply extending eaves. Continue uphill to Oxford Street and turn right again. On the right, 910 Oxford (17) has two colonnaded porches, numerous gables and a huge old wisteria growing over the front, impressive in spring. Across the street a large rhyolite rock outcrop blocks the sidewalk. 916 Oxford is a somewhat spooky looking Mediterranean style stucco house.



1019 Oxford

Farther along on the left at 1001 Oxford (18) from 1918 elements of Prairie School design can be seen such as the horizontal emphasis and balustrade design. 1014 Oxford (19) from 1928 has handsome vertical half-timbering over cream-colored stucco. Across the street at 1019 Oxford, the 1904 residence has Colonial Revival details including a circular corner bay and matching curve in the landing of the stairway up to the front porch. A tall Canary Island palm tree towers over 1024 Oxford, a house with intersecting gambrel roofs. Built in 1918,

1043 Oxford (20) has upward spreading curves in the half-timbering of the twin gables.

Continue on Oxford past Los Angeles to see on the left 1101 Oxford, with a series of renovations by owner/architect Joanne Koch, including studio space in the garage structure that maximizes the intimacy of an interior garden, which can be seen in a filtered view through the garage door. 1114 Oxford (21) has ornamental cast relief panels on the front wall including one with "1930," highlighting the year of the home's construction. The San Francisco Bay can be spotted occasionally between houses along the street here. Eugene Lawler, UC Berkeley computer science professor from 1971 to 1994, lived at modest 1121 Oxford; in addition to his own important work in

combinatorial optimization, Lawler mentored numerous doctoral students who also became leaders in computer science. He was also a keen social activist.

The nondescript facade of the Oxford Elementary School, a Berkeley public school, is enlivened by painted flowers and colorful tiles. The original building here was demolished in 1965 due to seismic concerns; another reconstruction is planned. Across the street, 1135 and 1139 Oxford (22) are varied Berkeley brown shingles; 1135 on the left has an unusual asymmetrical design and large chimney with clinker bricks. The large 1912 home at 1147-1151 Oxford was the family home of Elizabeth de Gebele Ginno, a painter, printmaker, and UC draftsman and illustrator.



1147-51 Oxford

While employed by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s, she created murals for western U.S. national parks and participated in the Art in Action exhibition, showing the active creation of art, at the 1940 Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island. The house itself is an interesting jumble.

Farther along at 1167 Oxford (23), the brown shingle with gambrel roof is a remodeled farmhouse from around 1890 that was the home of John Jauregui, a popular family doctor from the 1960s through early 2000s, beloved for his strong social consciousness, whether practicing in impoverished countries or lower-income parts of Berkeley. He was also president of the Alta Bates hospital medical staff and a UC instructor. Continue to Eunice.

Possible shortcut: To break the walk into two segments, walk down Eunice to return to the starting point. To take the second segment of the walk, go left uphill on Eunice one block to Spruce Street. First cross Eunice to the right and walk a few steps down Spruce to see on the right the charming 1928 bungalow court called Spruce Cottages at 1200 Spruce/2214 Eunice (24); homes reminiscent of country cottages and one large multiunit building face a landscaped common area and there is another row of cottages a few steps further down Spruce. There are 10 units in all on land that would normally be two or three single family home lots; this shows a way to provide more affordable housing without the negative aesthetics of 1960s concrete block apartment buildings.

Return to Eunice and cross it to head north and slightly uphill on Spruce. Across the street at 1175 Spruce (25) is a low-slung modernist house built in 1952 but remodeled in 2012. It is very different in style from the other houses on this street, set further back with walls of concrete block and vertical unpainted boards. Farther along,

1135-37-39 is a 1930 house set back from the street with two cottages in front, each with a large multi-paned window—a different approach to providing more modest housing that fits well into a neighborhood of single family homes.



1086 Spruce

Cross over Los Angeles. At 1100 Spruce (26) on the northwest corner the large 1915 residence is an excellent example of a California Craftsman designed by T. C. Peterson, with a greatly elongated gable on the Spruce side over an interior stairway. Notice the wide, landscaped, parklike stretch between the sidewalk and the street, providing a buffer zone from traffic for a ways along Spruce. At 1086 Spruce, a bear and cubs sculpture has been carved from an old tree trunk along the fence on the yard's north side.

Continue to the low and wide 1924 house at 1030 Spruce (27), with a gentle curve in the roof over the entrance and gables facing forward on each end and perhaps a view of the bay though the living room. Then 1008 Spruce has elements of southwest adobe style featuring contrasting walls of white stucco or rough brick with mortar oozing out as well as shutters, some old-style lanterns and rough vertical boards on the garage door.

Turn left down San Benito Road. At 919 San Benito, a large 1921 house is set back from the street with a front yard shaded by old trees. The cheery 1925 Tudor style house on the corner at 905 San Benito (28) was the childhood home of Gregory Hoblit, a prolific film and TV producer/director who graduated from Berkeley High in 1961. He won nine Emmy awards for series he directed and produced including *Hill Street Blues*, *NYPD Blue*, and *L.A. Law*. He also directed the films *Primal Fear*, *Frequency*, *Hart's War* and *Fracture*.



905 San Benito

Turn right up steep Marin and then right onto Santa Barbara Road, which has a couple of brilliant-hued Chinese pistache trees in autumn and then several more Berkeley brown shingles in the latter part of the block with varied designs. Go right on Spruce, passing at 976 Spruce (29), a 1927 house with a tall, steeply pitched roof, large twin

chimneys and a deep-set dormer window. At San Benito, cross Spruce carefully in the cross walk and turn left a few steps to see 937 Spruce with its Art Nouveau “Metro” gateway and a cute red car that goes up a track to the house on the steep hillside. Now go right, downhill on Spruce.

At Keith Avenue, cross the street and head left up Keith’s south side. The street is named for William Keith (1838-1911), a Scottish American artist who lived in Berkeley for many years. Most famous for his California landscape paintings, Keith was a good friend of early environmentalist John Muir. One house from the corner, across the street and high up the hill at 1005 Keith (30), the green and white 1924 Craftsman has a garage in matching style at street level; note the extending rounded rafters under the eaves, stone work and green shingles. Next door, 1009 Keith has a mini-cable car on raised tracks to get people and their stuff up the steep slope, though overgrown now.

A small fork of Codornices Creek runs below the steep right (south) side of Keith. This block is part of an active slide area, and over the years homes have slowly crept downhill so that most now sit over their 1909 property lines. This has resulted in legal as well as engineering issues, but the homes have not experienced sudden disastrous slides that have occurred elsewhere in the California hills.



1024 Keith

At 1024 Keith (31), the 1926 house called Bella Vista has unusual siding of large bricks with a grooved pattern. A fountain with a sculpted head is on the front wall, and a large stylized terracotta sculpture of a rhinoceros stands in the garden. Farther along on the uphill side, 1045 Keith (32) is a contemporary-style house from 1987 with weathered vertical wood siding, curving wall sections and metal tubing on the railings. Then the 1922 house at 1049 Keith features salmon-colored walls, an

upper balcony that partly wraps around each side and a lower balcony with intriguing painted panels. There are also rooms over the two garages. 1057 Keith is a large 1912 Craftsman house in brown shingle with a wide porch and partly glassed in balcony.

At Euclid Avenue, named for the Greek geometer, turn right to go downhill. Near 1080 Euclid notice the sharp dip in the near side of Euclid; this is caused by the aforementioned slide area and this location also needs periodic repaving as well as

redoing of underground sewer and water lines. At 1094 Euclid the street divides into an upper and lower level—built to accommodate the Key System street car that ran up Euclid to about Marin Avenue from the early 1900s to the 1930s. The upper part was for the single track streetcar and the lower for two-lane car traffic; now each level handles auto traffic in one direction. Rosemary cascades down the retaining wall.

Some ways farther along as you approach a 20 mph sign, look up left to see the houses built up on the precipitous hillside. Just after the street retaining wall ends and past the gate at 1152 Euclid (33) is a colorful mural of a Mayan creation story with an explanation and a dedication. Across the street a bit farther along at 1163 Euclid (34) the rooftop may be visible beyond the fence of a house designed in 1911 by architect John White, the brother-in-law of renowned Berkeley architect Bernard



1152 Euclid

Maybeck. White lived in this house originally; then from 1940 to 1965 it was the home of photographer Dorothea Lange, best known for her Depression-era photos of the down and out. Her husband, UC professor Paul Taylor, remained here until near the time of his death in 1984 so the house has had only three owners in its 100 year plus history. Francis Joseph McCarthy designed some modernizing renovations in 1940 and further renovations were done by Gary Earl Parsons in 2005. 1164 Euclid on the right side is a brown shingle home built in 1912 with extensive stone work and Japanese-influenced fencing and lamps.

Cross the little street Crystal Way, and then turn right on the signed Oak Street Path just before 1178 Euclid, a long house extending back from the street and divided into three units. When you get to the fence and gate of 3 Oak Street Path, look down to the right at a small fork of Codornices Creek, which enters a concrete culvert to carry it to the confluence with two larger forks down the street in Codornices Park and the Berkeley Rose Garden. Bear left here and go up the cement steps.

At the top of the steps you're on High Court, a street that few in Berkeley know about, much less visit. Walk right and up the street to see an eclectic mixture of traditional and contemporary-style houses. On the left/uphill side, 1138 High Court (35) is a 1919 large house with a classical entryway by architect James Plachek, who designed the main Berkeley public library and many other civic and residential buildings around

town. The creek may be heard down below on the right. A house with an unusual balcony at the inside of its L-shape is at 1123 High Court.

The street curves twice to the left before ending at a cul-de-sac with partial views of the bay, depending on the foliage. After enjoying the charming ambiance, descend back down but this time walk past the Oak Street Path stairs and bear right. Continue past the first street on the left, Laurel Lane, and proceed straight ahead to the west on what seems to be a driveway. Here Oak Street Path soon bears off to the left as the driveway goes up to the right; take the path and descend the wooden tie steps and then a cement staircase.

At the end of the path, do not turn left on Glen Avenue but rather walk straight ahead on Oak Street until it ends at Arch Street. Turn right and take the right sidewalk when it reappears. At the corner of Corona Court, 1151 Arch (36) is a large 1927 English Tudor with a pattern of bricks between the half-timbering in the central gable. For an optional extra climb on a pleasant residential block, walk up Corona Court, passing about a dozen houses reminiscent of European country cottages. At the end of the cul-de-sac at 2358 Corona Court is a handsome contemporary house from 1989 with wood siding and large windows that rise in height up to a roof corner; you can actually see through the house to trees and another house beyond it. The basic design was done by the original owner, Leo Breiman. Return to Arch, cross over and walk to the right.

Where Arch curves to the left two houses on the right side, at 1119 and 1115-17 Arch (37) were both built in 1916 and rise impressively several stories up the hillside, with numerous terraces and balconies; 1115 also has a residential unit over the garage. Turn around and return going south uphill on Arch. Then descend the hill and at the stop sign at 1150-52 Arch (38), the 1920 house has a tower-like central structure with unusual round windows and a sun room over the garage. Next door at 1154-56 Arch,

the 2013 house has iron gates, railings, and sculpture on the left side with animal and plant designs as well as additional lovely ironwork on the right side hand railing.



1175 Arch

Farther down and across the street, 1175 Arch—built in 1904—has two ornate Chinese-style gates, the main one opening to a shrine in front of the house with icons drawn from the Chinese Buddhism of Penang, Malaysia. Owner Fredric Fierstein, an electrical contractor, is also responsible for the Chinese Guardian sculpture near the pier in the Berkeley Marina.

Descend right on Eunice to return to the starting point (or to Spruce if doing just the second half of the walk).

Walk 24

STRAWBERRY CREEK PARK AND THE SANTE FE RAILWAY

Overview: West of Sacramento Street and south of University Avenue, this relatively short and level walk features a park with a restored creek at the former location of a railroad yard, the remaining right of way of that railroad and a pleasing variety of architecture and street trees.

Highlights:

- Strawberry Creek, one of the nation's first "daylighted" creeks
- * Historic Santa Fe Railway
- * Fox Court, in storybook style, and other architecture

Distance: 2 miles

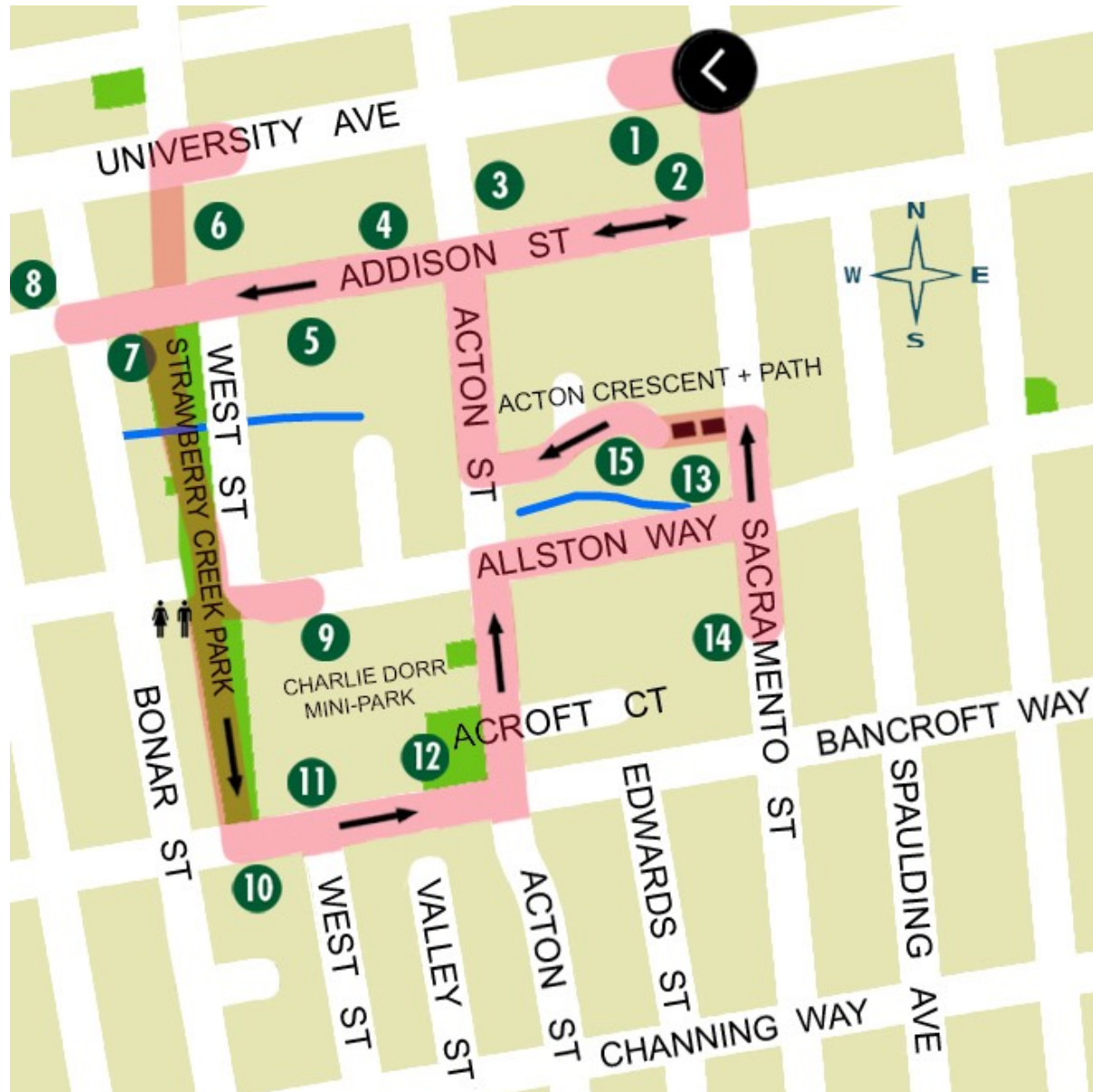
Elevation gain: 80 ft

Getting there: Start at the southwest corner of Sacramento Street and University Avenue. Parking is usually available on side streets but watch for signs limiting parking times or days. From BART, exit at North Berkeley, walk out to Sacramento Street and go south (right) to the major signaled intersection of University and Sacramento. The 51B bus from Oakland/downtown Berkeley also stops at this intersection.

Look catty-corner to the northeast corner of University and Sacramento. In an L-shape around the small 7-Eleven store is the four-story Helios Corner development (1531 University) from 2007 in wood and stucco, which features retail space on the first floor. It provides 80 units of affordable housing for seniors with low income and/or special needs. This green features of the building, managed by Satellite Affordable Housing Associates, include solar photovoltaics and a hydronic heating system.

Walk left down University (away from the hills) to Fox Court at 1472-78 University (1), a compound of shopfronts and 18 apartments in storybook style that is a designated city landmark and also on the National Register of Historic Places. It was constructed in 1927-30 and designed by Carl Fox, a UC graduate in mining engineering. With his brothers he built many charming homes in Berkeley, but this is perhaps his masterpiece in the combination of diverse building materials, hide-and-seek layout, and dense landscaping. There is a historic plaque a few steps toward the gate. Fox also designed the landmarked Fox Common, three charming cottages farther east at

1670-76 University. The Fox Brothers construction company had their offices here until 1953. Unfortunately the gate and shrubbery allow only a partial view of the residential section including a whimsical chimney, but the rustic stone and brickwork on the commercial building is engaging.



Return to Sacramento and turn right to head south, passing some apartment buildings and two houses at 2020 Sacramento that have historic sections in a storybook style and are joined by a rear addition. The houses and apartments on this first block of Sacramento and continuing on the north side of Addison Street are all part of University Avenue Cooperative Homes (2), which also includes an apartment building on University just beyond Fox Court. This housing development of 47 units is an unusually diverse mixture of old and newer construction of different types. Turn right

on Addison Street, named after Dr. Joseph Thomas Addison, a Berkeley pioneer. University Cooperative Homes also includes a small community garden on Addison just beyond the corner apartment building and the compound goes all the way to 1417 Addison, just before a parking lot, and includes internal walkways and shared open space. The homes were developed by Resources for Community Development, a non-profit East Bay affordable housing developer, but are owned by the city of Berkeley and managed by John Stewart Company. Eligibility is based on household income compared to area median incomes.

Continue along Addison with its mixture of stucco bungalow, Craftsman, Colonial Revival and Victorian homes, as well as apartments. On the right, the site of the original Berkeley Co-Op supermarket (later Andronico's supermarket and Savers) is more recently a Target store (3). The Co-Op, formed as the Consumers' Cooperative of Berkeley in 1939 grew to eventually having 100,000 members, becoming the largest cooperative of its kind in the country. At one point there were 12 Bay Area supermarkets with \$83 million in annual sales. Management factionalism and financial bankruptcy brought about its collapse in 1988 though it was already downsizing from the 1970s onward.



1357 Addison

Continue past Acton Street to 1357 Addison (4) on the right, a brightly painted split-level 1926 bungalow. A large ceanothus with seasonal sprays of light blue flowers is in front. On the left is Strawberry Creek Lodge at 1320 Addison (5), which provides 150 affordable, independent-living apartments for seniors. It was built in 1962 with free-flowing Strawberry Creek running through the back of the property. Satellite Affordable Housing Associates partnered with the lodge in 2015 to finance remodeling and seismic upgrades and provide

management services. Next door at 1312-14 Addison is an 1898 Victorian with ornate detailing, including geometric patterns; it was renovated in 2017. 1308 Addison is another Victorian, altered but still retaining many historic features.

Across the street is the back of The Berkeley School (6) at 1310 University, on the grounds of the former Santa Fe Railway station (the railroad was originally called the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway). The historic station building for many years was a restaurant called the Santa Fe Bar & Grill. The private K-to-8 school says it is inspired by the methods of Maria Montessori and other educational innovators. At the

far side of the school grounds take the public West Street Path on the right to University Avenue. Beyond the pedestrian/bicycle signal at University the path continues on north for several blocks, following the route of the old Santa Fe Railway tracks until it joins the Ohlone Greenway northwest of North Berkeley BART.

Turn right and walk along University a short distance to see the 1904 station building, now part of the school, in Spanish Mission Revival Style with a dome. Next door, the synagogue Congregation Netivot Shalom is at 1316 University, a well-done 2005 renovation of a former liquor store with an angled roofline. The Berkeley School and the synagogue share a parking lot, since they generally use it at different times.

Return the way you came via the path, turn right on Addison and continue to the corner of Bonar Street, named for the Scottish minister and religious music composer Horatius Bonar. Cross Bonar to the northwest corner.

From 1912 the American Photoplayer Company manufacturing facility was catty-corner in the southeast corner wooden building (7); it made instruments (the Fotoplayer, a kind of player piano/organ) to provide automatic music as well as easily operated sound effects for movie theaters before the “talkies,”. The three brick buildings east and south of this were added by the company between 1913 and 1920. Subsequently from the 1940s to 1986 the whole site was occupied by the Charles F. Cooper Woodworking Company. These are



Historic Photoplayer Company building

remnants of the industrial buildings constructed along the Santa Fe Railway line. Since renovation in 1986 as the Strawberry Creek Design Center, the complex has been creatively reused for office and studios for artists, craftspeople, software developers and others and has also hosted eateries, a yoga studio, and other tenants.

On this corner behind you (8) and extending out to University is the administrative office of the Berkeley Unified School District, called the West Campus buildings. It was originally Burbank Junior High School, then from 1964 the West Campus of Berkeley High School, and from 1986 to 2004 the Berkeley Adult School. The building was renovated and seismically upgraded in 2012 so that the school district could move out of offices scattered in three seismically unsafe buildings. Beyond the building to the east are an auditorium and the city’s West Campus pool.



Strawberry Creek

Cross catty-corner and return up Addison on the south side and then take the paved path through Strawberry Creek Park to the right. This park, dedicated in 1983, was created on the former site of the Santa Fe Railroad freight yard. The last freight train ran through here in 1978, after which the railroad donated the rights-of-way to cities along the route from Berkeley to Richmond (see Ohlone Greenway walk in *Berkeley Walks*). The creek, which had been culverted here, was daylighted to follow its former course with native tree and shrub plantings, and concrete on the site was broken up to stabilize the banks. It is believed to be the first urban daylighted creek in the nation. The park was dedicated in 1983 with 3.7 acres, and includes a playground and picnic areas as well as paved courts for various sports. The Urban Creeks Council of Berkeley played an important role in daylighting this creek and other creeks in California. A neighborhood group called Friends of Strawberry Creek Park has been meeting regularly to advocate for the park.

Walk through the park (away from Addison) and cross the footbridge over the creek. Strawberry Creek, which starts from springs in the Berkeley Hills and flows year-round through the University of California campus, can be dramatic after heavy rains when it catches storm overflow from throughout the watershed. Sometimes fish or crayfish can be spotted. The creek is lined with native willow, sycamore, and other trees. After the bridge on the right is Berkeley Youth Alternatives, which provides structured programs for at-risk young people from 6 to 18 years old. The sides of this former industrial building feature murals and other artwork. One the left is a playground that was significantly renovated in 2020.

A public restroom is next to the basketball court. Turn left (east) at the restroom and walk a short distance up Allston Way, named for Washington Allston, an early American poet and painter. On the left is Chaparral House, a non-profit skilled nursing eldercare facility, founded in 1978 by a foundation spearheaded by Marion Johnson, wife of former Berkeley mayor Wally Johnson. (Mayor Johnson was one of the people instrumental in getting BART put underground through Berkeley.) Across the street on the right is the City Corporation Yard at 1326 Allston (9), where city vehicles and equipment are stored and there are offices of the Department of Public Works. The brick structure with arched windows along the north side is a Berkeley city landmark designed in 1916 by Walter Ratcliff, Jr. The building was renovated and seismically retrofit in 2013.

Return to the park and walk toward the restroom and then left past the basketball court to take the path that goes to the right of the the fenced soccer, tennis, and volleyball courts to Bancroft Way, named for George Bancroft, a mid-19th century historian, diplomat, and cabinet secretary who was also important in promoting secondary education. Turn right and past Bonar on the right side at 1227-29 Bancroft was for a time the childhood home of Vice President Kamala Harris (10). She lived upstairs there with her mother from about 1971 to 1977 including the period, noted in the primary debates, when she was bused to Thousand Oaks Elementary School from her segregated neighborhood. Now return up Bancroft, carefully cross catty corner at Bonar to go up the right side of Bancroft. Farther along on the right is the Bancroft Community Garden and Berkeley Youth Alternatives urban farm (11) on former Santa Fe right-of-way, here since 1994. If the gate is open, feel free to explore the gardens.

Back on Bancroft and facing the street, walk right/east (toward the hills). At West Street, look across Bancroft to see a gate (12) designed by Eric Powell in 2007 to provide a more attractive interface for the corporation yard; the gate is sometimes open and not visible. It includes references to farming and railroad tools to reflect the neighborhood's history. The sweetgum (liquid amber) trees to the south along West Street have brilliant orange and red hues in late autumn.

At Acton, cross Bancroft to the left to the Berkeley Lawn Bowling Club (13) at 2270 Acton, founded in 1928 on city-owned land with the first green ready for use in 1929. A second green was dedicated in 1962; however, it is no longer in use. The clubhouse was built in 1964. Several games can be played on one green. The objective is to get the ball as close as possible to the jack (white ball marker) at the opposite side. The bowling balls are slightly tapered producing a weight bias to enable curving pitches. Lawn bowling is said to be an "easy game to learn but a difficult one to master." The club welcomes people of all ages.



Berkeley Lawn Bowling Club

Continue walking north on Acton, passing by the lawn bowling club, and note the Women's Daytime Drop-In Center at 2218 Acton, a non-profit organization providing supportive services for homeless women and their families. Charlie Dorr Park, with a playground, is next door. The street has numerous ornamental pear trees with bright red leaves in autumn.

Turn right on Allston and cross over to the left side of the street. Toward the far end of the block, between 1431 and 1435 Allston (14), Strawberry Creek emerges from a culvert that started at the west end of the UC campus. The creek is open here through backyards on Allston Way and Acton Crescent, behind Strawberry Creek Lodge and through the park; it then enters another culvert until its outlet into San Francisco Bay next to University Avenue just west of Interstate 80. The house directly across the street at 1436 Allston (unoccupied at this writing and missing a front stairway) was at one time the home of Black Panther activist Eldridge Cleaver.

At Sacramento, turn right and continue to 2220 Sacramento (15), the home of Berkeley Cohousing, created in 1994 with a combination of 14 new and renovated units and one associated unit next door. The objective was to provide less expensive but environmentally sustainable, compact housing including 1,600 square feet of shared indoor community space for gathering and dining, a children's play area, office, and shared laundry as well as common outdoor space. The co-housing group seeks generational diversity and many meals are eaten together to build cooperation and a sense of community. It is reportedly the only cohousing community in Berkeley though a number of apartment buildings are cooperatively owned.



1440 Acton Crescent

Turn around and head back north, crossing Allston Way. In the front yard of 2144 Sacramento note the unusual large plant with long, narrow, spiky leaves called yucca elephantipes (gigantea), the largest of the yucca species. In season it has fragrant white flowers. Just beyond this turn left at Acton Crescent Path between 2138A and 2132B Sacramento. This short, paved path emerges onto Acton Crescent, a one-block cul-de-sac with a charming mix of single-family wood or shingle cottages and modest apartments. 1440

Acton Crescent (16) on the left is an impressive storybook style house with a high steep roof and a very large bay window.

At Acton, turn right, passing the Berkeley Chinese Community Church and you can turn right on Addison and left on Sacramento back to the starting point. Alternatively: continue past Addison to University Avenue where there is a bus stop or you can cross University at the signal and continue on Acton to the North Berkeley BART station or go right on University back to the starting point.