

MORE BERKELEY WALKS- SERIES 5

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 34- BATEMAN NEIGHBORHOOD

Along the Berkeley Oakland border, the tree-lined residential streets feature a variety of early 20th century homes. Little known Bateman Street has a wealth of history in its former residents from movie stars to bakers. The Alta Bates hospital complex is adjacent. Easy walking on fairly flat streets. 2.2 miles; 80 feet elevation gain



WALK 35- NORTH OF ASHBY BART



Developing from the time of the 1876 steam train to Berkeley, the area got a big boost in the exodus from San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake. It has a variety of Victorian, Colonial Revival and Craftsman homes as well as diverse street trees and a former ice skating palace. The walk is very flat. 2.6 miles; 130 feet elevation gain.

WALK 36- FROM NORTH BERKELEY BART

In the area north and west of the BART station is an eclectic mix of houses and apartments with murals, fine street trees and gardens. Walking and biking paths follow a former railway line. Another flat walk. 3.75 miles; 1.5 or 2.5 miles with shortcuts; 155 feet elevation gain, less with shortcuts



Walk 34

Bateman Neighborhood

Overview: Straddling the Oakland Berkeley border near the Alta Bates hospital complex, this walk features early twentieth century homes on tree-lined streets. The styles include Colonial Revival, Brown Shingle and Craftsman bungalow. The focal point is narrow, one block-long Bateman Street which has a fascinating history of people both locally and internationally renowned.

Highlights:

- * The stories of many famous former residents of Bateman Street
- * Attractive tree-lined residential streets with varied architecture
- * Berkeley's largest hospital complex which faces an uncertain future

Distance: 2.2 miles

Elevation gain: 80 feet

Getting there: Start at the southwest corner of College Avenue and Webster Street, just one block south of Ashby Avenue. The location is accessible by AC Transit buses running on College, Ashby, Telegraph or Alcatraz Avenues. Parking near the starting point can be somewhat hard to find and there are generally time limits. Check signs.

On the southwest corner 3000 College Avenue is a big Colonial Revival house with a deck that has the appearance of having been a cafe of some sort. It was built in 1912 and is a multi-unit residential building. It features a big Palladian window on the College Avenue side, shingle siding and a deck over the entry. Go right to head away from College on Webster Street, noting along the left side of the street some fine-leaved Chinese pistache trees that have brilliant colors in autumn. The street name is for Noah Webster, an early landowner in the area.

Turn left at Benvenue Avenue and on the right side 3010 Benvenue (1) also from 1912 is another Colonial Revival but a different form with a very high pitched roof, the gable facing the front, as well as flaring out side eaves; there is a similar style house across the street at 3011 Benvenue. At 3015, 3019 and 3023 Benvenue is a row of attractive two story Brown Shingle homes built between 1904 and 1910. Many of the residences on this block have entrances on the side and are fairly sizable though the lot sizes are modest, a planning strategy to have many houses reasonably convenient to streetcar and commuter train lines.



Tall sweetgum (liquidambar) trees lining both sides of the street produce long lasting and impressive autumn tints. The house at 3033 Benvenue (2) has a succulent front garden with planting in the spaces of the retaining wall. Farther along on the other side the somewhat modernized brown shingle house at 3046 Benvenue from 1908 has pretty upper window muntins. The street is quite full of Brown Shingle style houses that remained popular in Berkeley and other parts of the Bay Area for many decades though the heyday was in the early part of the twentieth century.

At Woolsey follow Benvenue as it jogs right and left. The brown shingle house on the southwest corner at 3100 Benvenue (3) has hints of Swiss chalet style with the large balcony and extending stacked timber brackets. Crossing Woolsey to the south takes you over the city boundary line into Oakland. Consequently the numbering changes,

counting up northward from downtown Oakland rather than south from the north edge of Berkeley. Moreover, while throughout Berkeley the west and south sides of the streets have even numbers and the east and north sides odd numbers this reverses in Oakland to have even numbers on the east and north sides and odd on the west and south.

3100 Benvenue would seem to be in Oakland but the numbering doesn't change until the second house from the corner. On the left side the second home is 6494 Benvenue (4), which has a cute pointy window and shutters in the front gable; it was built in



6494 Benvenue Avenue

1936. The residences at 6486, and 6478-80 Benvenue (built in 1906 and 1914 respectively) have hints of the Prairie Style. As on most of the rest of this walk the houses show great variety in design. Farther along on the right 6449-51 Benvenue (5) includes a rear unit over the garage and has a beautiful large window bay and big brackets. It was originally built in 1910 with a major renovation and addition in 2001. Like quite a few homes in this area it has been converted to a multi-unit residence. Real estate sites say homes like this on the Oakland side of the border are in the Rockridge area although it is really about 2/3 of a mile to the Rockridge BART station. Near the end of

the block the 1916 Craftsman at 6415 Benvenue (6) has a stone porch, unusual big curving rafters emerging from under the eaves and lovely glass around the entry door.

At the northwest corner with Alcatraz is a group of two-story homes built in 2011 and designed by Glen Jarvis in homage to the Craftsman Brown Shingle style. Many of the fine Craftsman touches can be found on the inside as well as outside, including built in shelving, exposed wooden ceilings, wood trim on the windows and doors, hardwood floors etc. They also have small private gardens/patios.

Go right on Alcatraz Avenue which would be 64th Street if it had a number. The Oakland Berkeley border tends to run either a little north or south of Alcatraz. At this point the street is lined with large sweetgum (Liquidambar) trees.

Go right on Hillegass Avenue, named for William Hillegass, an early Oakland business man and Berkeley landowner. At the northeast corner and next to it at 6400 and 6406 Hillegass (7) are similar homes both built in 1913, with ornate brackets, detailed window muntins, and an ornamental course under the first and second floor eaves.

Hillegass in this block is lined on both sides with London plane trees (sycamores) with their multi-colored peeling bark and large maple-like leaves. In leaf they create a green shady tunnel that is most welcome on a hot day though it can mean fewer garden flowers. The houses on this street tend to be more in 1-1 1/2 story bungalow style than full two story homes and they often have Craftsman details, with walls finished in shingle or stucco.

6435 and 6439 Hillegass (8) from 1905 and 1907, respectively, have some nice design features and each has a second floor terrace area set in the sloping roof. The final house on each side brings you back to the Berkeley border. At the intersection with Woolsey is a traffic circle from the 1970s, reportedly the first of this type done in the city of Berkeley although the larger scale Marin Circle in north Berkeley had been built some time before that.

3057 Hillegass (9) at the northeast corner is a handsome 1908 Colonial Revival with a feature like a Palladian window that evidently has a door opening onto the roof of the porch. The street jogs right and left here and the next block of Hillegass has fewer but more diverse trees along the street. The homes are primarily Craftsman bungalows with shingle siding and two floor Colonial Revival residences. 3023 Hillegass (10) from 1911 has a very wide angling bay that goes up two floors and nicely detailed windows. The 1908 house at 3005 Hillegass has a pretty curve on the front roofline over well proportioned first and second floor windows and a second floor flower box. When you get to the Berkeley side of Woolsey realtors like to say you are in the Elmwood area though such neighborhoods are never precisely defined. We use the Bateman name as that is the name of the neighborhood association in this part of the general Elmwood district.

The southeast corner lot at Webster (11) has a large Canary Island palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) in the yard on the Hillegass side and a line of tall and thin trunked Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) along the street in front and on the side and then at the next yard east at 2608 Webster is a California desert fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*) that is stockier than the Mexican palm and tends to hold onto its fronds longer, creating a graybeard effect in this case. Both have fan-shaped fronds whereas the Canary Island palm has the more familiar feather-like palm fronds. After comparing the three types continue on Hillegass past Webster and the latter half



Palms at Hillegass and Webster

of the block has red leaf ornamental plums with abundant early spring flowers. 2942 Hillegass (12) on the southwest corner with Ashby Avenue is a multi-unit 1920 building that has numerous large three-part windows, often with a curve over the middle section.

Go left on Ashby and left again on Regent Street, the name honoring the University of California regents. This takes you through part of the Alta Bates hospital complex with a medical office building on the left and the back of the hospital on the right (13). In 1905 nurse Alta Alice Minor Bates founded an eight-bed sanitarium for women at 2314 Dwight Way. She was one of the first female anesthetists in the Bay Area. Physicians and community leaders helped her purchase two blocks on Webster Street where a three-story building was put up in 1908, followed by a six-story building in 1928 at Regent and Webster called Alta Bates Hospital; it included a nursing school. Bates retired in 1949 and passed away in 1955 at age 75. The 1928 building was demolished in 1981 after the current building was built in the 1970s. The hospital became affiliated with Herrick Hospital near downtown Berkeley and then Summit Hospital in Oakland and in turn part of the Sutter Health network. Sutter has proposed ending many of the services at Alta Bates in 2030 which has caused significant community pushback. For example Berkeley would then be left without an emergency room.

After the medical office building turn left on Webster street (not a through street), noting the active small park with playground on the corner that we will refer to later. The street leads to a short path passing in front of another medical building labeled 2510 to emerge at a bulb at the end of Bateman Street. This narrow street was originally a carriage drive into the property of Noah Webster who had a home, outbuildings and water tank about where the medical office building is now. He was also a carpenter who built homes. The Bateman Tract was subdivided and registered in 1900 in its present form and a number of homes were soon built along the street. The street name comes from Frank Luce Bateman, an early Bay Area physician and druggist.



Rose Cottage at 3020 Bateman Street

Go right on Bateman, and on the right at 3016 was supposedly the initial Bateman home of Jane Fonda in 1971 when she was living in Berkeley, filming *Steelyard Blues* and active in opposing the Vietnam War. Then at 3020 Bateman is a house labeled Rose Cottage that has a big roof and somewhat the feel of an English rural cottage. Previously the house included garden space on the two lots to the south of it with myriad roses. The two homes on these lots which face onto Regent Street eventually took back these sections and fenced them

off from the Rose Cottage but several roses still persist in the garden of the one farther south.

Then on the left at 3031 Bateman (14) from 1969-73 was the Red Family Commune founded by an idealistic group of New Leftists including Tom Hayden. He was one of the leaders of the New Left group called Students for a Democratic Society, which was very active in the 1960s. Later Hayden was elected to the California state assembly and the state senate. Also involved in the commune were *Ramparts* magazine co-editor and noted columnist Robert Scheer and his wife, Anne Weills, a civil rights and equity activist. In 1971 commune members founded a parent participation nursery school called Blue Fairyland at this site. In that year Jane Fonda enrolled her three-year old daughter Vanessa Vadim there and that is how she met Tom Hayden whom she married in 1973. The nursery school was there for some time after the commune and later at John Muir school and Whittaker School (Berkeley Arts Magnet) until finally shutting down in 1988.

Then on the left is 3033 Bateman, a house reportedly dating from the 1880s. It has been altered but retains a hint of Victorian design in the massing (shape of the gables etc); it was probably moved here when the Bateman tract was subdivided.

Next to it the house is labeled 3067 **Batman** (15) rather than Bateman and farther down at the corner the street sign has also had the letter E blacked out in a bit of Berkeley playfulness. 3067 was built in 1913 and later called Casa Amarilla for its yellow color. It was for a time the home of the people who founded the Nabalom Bakery in 1976. Then Cheryl Lew and her spouse John Amano moved in and she began baking and later in 1990 set up and operated the beloved Montclair Baking. She also taught at Laney College and demonstrated her pastry expertise on national television; Lew sold the



Gate at 3067 Bateman Street

business in 2016 and it became Batch Pastries. Meanwhile her husband John Amano's family was in produce. He started the Yasai Market at 6301 College in the Rockridge area of Oakland. His sister Diane along with her husband Glenn Yasuda founded the Berkeley Bowl market in 1977.

3073 Bateman with a big evergreen magnolia in front was said to be briefly a residence in the 1970s of Jane Fonda and her second husband Tom Hayden, whom we noted in the discussion on Blue Fairyland.

3075 Bateman (16), a nice Craftsman bungalow, was the home of Arlene Montauk Slaughter who was married to Percy “Slim” Slaughter, a Bay Area athletic teacher and well regarded jazz musician. She was a real estate agent who represented the Black Panther party and fought along with her husband and others against racial discrimination in California housing. She helped encourage the Berkeley city council ordinance for fair housing which was nullified by a citizen petition drive (the city was still pretty conservative at that time). She later campaigned in favor of William Byron Rumford’s statewide Fair Housing Act which passed the legislature but was rescinded by Proposition 14 (and her opposition to that initiative led to her Berkeley real estate license being rescinded); Prop 14 tried to enshrine housing discrimination but was later overturned by the California Supreme Court. Arlene’s daughter Frederika Slaughter Newton married Black Panther founder Huey Newton. Berkeley political couple Loni Hancock and Tom Bates met at one of Arlene’s parties in this house.

Backtrack a few steps and go west (left) on Prince Street which is named for the favorite horse of James Bradshaw Woolsey, yet another early landowner who brought the first horse rail car to Berkeley. Prince is probably the only street in the city named for a horse. Digesting this factoid, go right on Regent Street (marked No Outlet) and just before a medical building go left on an alley that is called Hospital Drive though not signed. It becomes a sidewalk with benches where you come to another small park on the left that is popular with kids.

When Alta Bates Hospital proposed expanding and building a major new hospital, the ever active Arlene Slaughter led a group of local citizens (the Bateman Neighborhood Association) to seek mitigation from the hospital. This resulted in a covenant that



Bateman Park

would create the two neighborhood parks we have seen and require the property owner to maintain them for 99 years. At that time some of the streets were also closed off to prevent heavy traffic through the neighborhood. Moreover in anticipation of greatly increased hospital-related parking the Bateman neighborhood was the first in Berkeley to obtain restricted parking that favored residents (and thus it is neighborhood A in that city program).

Turn left on Colby from the bulb, eventually taking a sidewalk or passing over a green lawn that supposedly has paving beneath to accomodate fire trucks when needed, and then turn left on Prince Street and right on Regent Street. When you cross Woolsey, where there is another traffic circle with a California live oak in the center, you immediately enter Oakland again.

At 6441 Regent on the right (17) is a nice Craftsman with rough rock, brown shingles and red trim and next door at 6439 Regent is another Craftsman with a big chimney of rounded stones (perhaps river stones) and mostly vertical half timbering in white. Still another attractive Craftsman house is next door at 6437. Then 6426 Regent (18) on the left is an interesting Colonial Revival with big columns and unusual square bays projecting from the second floor of both corners. Other typical Craftsman homes are at 6421 and 6417 Regent, the latter having a pleasant L-shaped porch. 6411 Regent (19) is another handsome Colonial Revival with a large porch and diagonal panes in the windows and twin gables facing the front. All of these homes were built between 1908 and 1912, a period of high growth in the East Bay after the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906.

Go right on Alcatraz noting again the sweet gum trees; the street is named for the island in San Francisco Bay and points straight at the island, visible when trees don't get in the way. Then turn right on Colby Street. Along Alcatraz and Colby from the northwest corner are the St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church (20), founded in 1907, and on the grounds the private K-12 school Escuela Bilingue International, with an English and Spanish dual language immersion program. You may get a glimpse through the narrow alleyway on the left of the large church tower. The street has a diverse mix of both home styles and trees. Farther along at 6446-48-50-52 Colby (21) there appears at first glance to be two matching single family American Foursquare style homes with Colonial Revival details but actually it is all part of one 1910 structure with upper and lower units on each side and thus a four-unit residence.



6446-52 Colby Street Multi-unit Residence

At 6458 Colby there is a large Canary Island palm and then you are back into Berkeley and there is an impressive Brown Shingle home with Craftsman elements at 3100 Colby on the southwest corner. Go right on Woolsey and follow this back to College Avenue passing street trees such as shiny dark-leaved evergreen magnolia, ornamental plum, Chinese pistache and London plane. At the southwest corner with College at 3100 College (22) is a three story 1923 apartment building and it is worth going around to the right on College to see the impressive entrance with porch enhanced by marble trim, a balcony above and a small quasi-balcony above that on the third floor.

Turn around to head back north on College to the starting point at Webster or perhaps avail yourself of the many culinary offerings in the Elmwood district (an area featured in a popular walk in the book *Berkeley Walks* by Bob Johnson and Janet Byron).

Walk 35

North of Ashby BART

Overview: This area was first developed when the steam train came to Berkeley in 1876 and there was a stop nearby. The exodus from San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and fire was another stimulus to growth. After a period of relative decline the 2010s saw new multi-unit buildings springing up. The terrain is level and features tree lined streets with varied architecture.

Highlights:

- * Victorian and Colonial Revival homes; Craftsman and California bungalows
- * Diverse street trees
- * A re-purposed historic ice skating rink

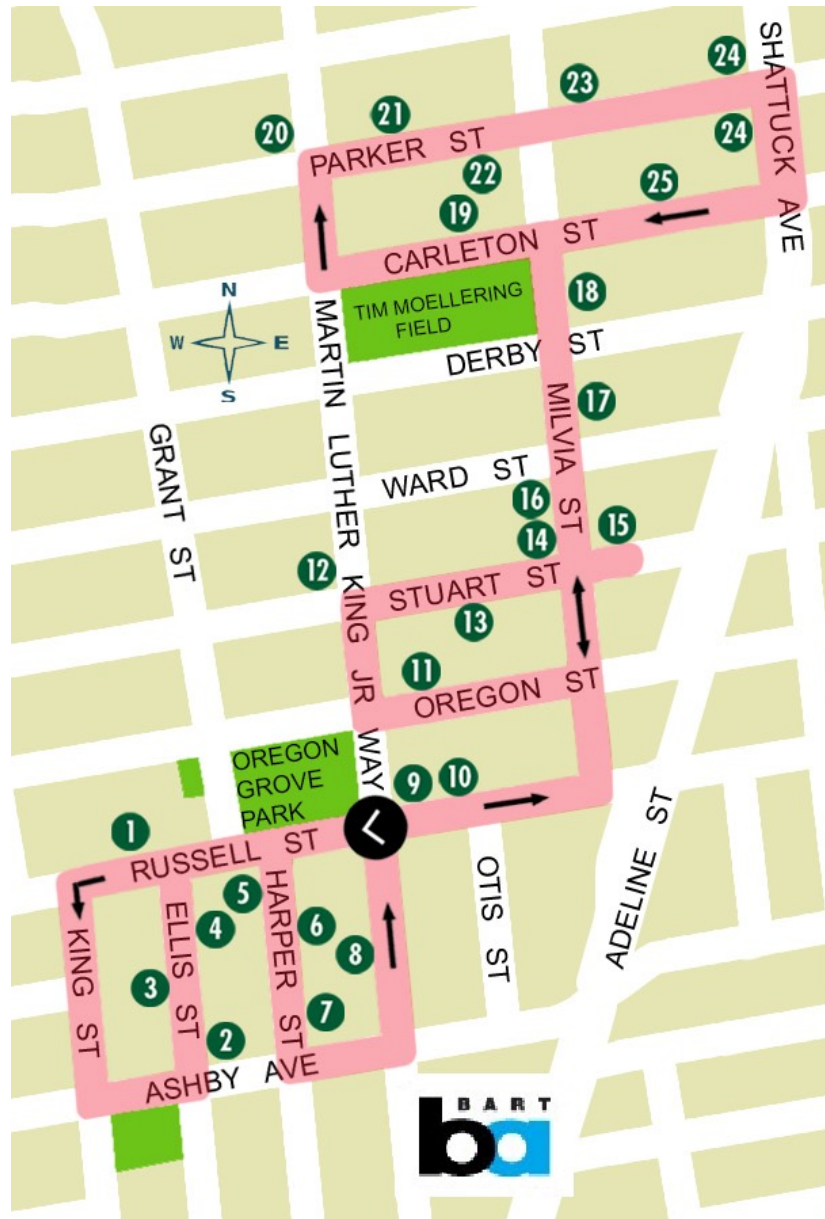
Distance: 2.6 miles

Elevation gain: 130 feet

Getting there: Start at the southwest corner of Russell and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way which is just one block from the Ashby BART property. Parking may be available on nearby streets but check signs carefully. If you come by BART to Ashby station exit to the west and head for the northwest corner of the BART property and cross Ashby Street and MLK Jr Way kathy corner and go one block north to Russell. AC Transit buses also serve the area.

From 1876 a steam train ran from Oakland to downtown Berkeley along Adeline and Shattuck. There were stations at Alcatraz Avenue, Ashby Avenue and Dwight Way in what is now south Berkeley. One of the notable things about this area is that close to the stations and route of the train the houses tend to be Victorian and Colonial Revival and often two stories; these were styles popular from the the late 1800s through the first decade of the 20th century. Just a bit farther away the houses tend to be one story bungalows in Craftsman or California stucco styles, which were popular in the 1910s and 1920s, thus showing the pattern of development.

Head west (away from the hills) on Russell Street, passing on your right the Oregon Grove Park with its basketball and tennis courts, baseball field, recreation center and playground. The park was renovated in 2017. On the same side as the park near the corner is a very gnarly trunked pepper tree. Another block or so beyond the park and just past Ellis Street on the right at 1733 Russell (1) is a somewhat neglected looking old red brick building that was at one time a school and now seems to be used by the school district for storage and its maintenance office. At the third intersection you come to on the south side of Russell go left on King Street.



The block has a fine ambiance due to the mature London plane trees that turn it into a green tunnel when the leaves are out and provide delicate branch patterns in winter. The street also has some historic homes that are mostly Craftsman and California stucco bungalows; closer to Ashby Avenue are some larger two story homes. 2915 King features a succulent and cactus garden. At the end of the block turn left on Ashby, noting across the street the Malcolm X playground and school and then go left on Ellis Street. Ashby is named for Mark and William Ashby, two early ranchers in the area. Other streets in the area such as Russell, Ellis, Harper, Stuart and Carleton are also reportedly named after early Berkeley residents.

At the northeast corner of Ashby and Ellis Street is the Judge Henry Ramsey Jr South Berkeley Senior Center (2) with its entrance at 2939 Ellis. It is built in an appealing mix

of traditional and contemporary styles. There are extended beams and eaves, half-timbering, large high windows under the second floor gables and complex massing. The center us named for Henry Ramsey Jr, a former civil rights activist, city council member and judge, appointed by Jerry Brown during his first stint as governor.

At 2928 Ellis (3) is a 1907 house that has elements of Craftsman and Colonial Revival with some notable features such as the squared off classical pilasters and a glassed in porch for the entry on the side.

Next to it the brown shingle from the same year at 2926 Ellis also has a mix of styles and jerkin head side gables and dormer with large carved brackets. The older 1898 house at 2915 Ellis has the entry on the inside corner of its L-shape, unusual for this neighborhood; the style is difficult to pin down, perhaps due to later alterations though there is a hint of Victorian in the forward projecting section. There are some more obvious Victorians such as 2908 Ellis on the left from 1898 and the earlier 1890 house at 2907 Ellis (4). Although the latter has been somewhat altered it retains significant character.



2907 Ellis

Turn right on Russell and right again on Harper Street. Like Russell and Ellis Streets, Harper is named for an early Anglo settler in the area. The houses we note on this block were all built between 1904 and 1916 and almost all are in Colonial Revival Style, then at its height. Examples are 2900 and 2904 Harper (5) on the right, both with front bay windows. On the left 2907 Harper features brown shingles, a high peaked gable and also a bay window. Next to it 2909 Harper has a high, projecting gable with an ornamental relief sculpture inside including a music lyre in the center. 2919 Harper (6) is an American Foursquare house in terms of layout which was popular for many Colonial Revival homes; the porch has a round arch over stubby columns while opposite at 2918 (and again at 2930) the corner porch arches have a subtle point at the peak. This street is lined with gracefully curving Chinese elm trees characterized by peeling bark and small leaves. The house at 2941 Harper (7) has complex massing (shape) and seems to be a transition from Victorian to Colonial Revival. Next to it on the corner is a large Colonial Revival house at 1825 Ashby.

Turn left at Ashby and left again on MLK Jr Way after passing a mural of neighborhood people and places on the wall of the commercial building along Ashby. Most of the

houses on this block of MLK are American Foursquare with Colonial Revival details. At 2930 MLK Jr Way (8) is a brown shingle building with dental offices that was formerly the home of Tarea Hall Pittman a leading civil rights campaigner, social worker and community activist who was born in Bakersfield in 1903 where her father and brothers helped form a branch of the NAACP. She came to UC Berkeley and met and married William Pittman who was the first black dentist in Berkeley. She became very active in various organizations for African Americans, helping the workers in the influx of African Americans during WWII and organizing protests to get Kaiser to hire blacks. She also lobbied for the California Fair Employment Practice bill signed into law in 1959 as well as similar laws in other states. Pittman promoted educational opportunities for blacks and helped create a group that funded “Negroes in the News” a radio program which she often hosted so that she became a nationally known radio personality from 1936 to the late 1970s.

At Russell cross catty-corner to the Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library at 1901 Russell (9) which was rebuilt in 2013, replacing a previous mid-century modern building designed by John Hans Oswald in 1960. The earlier structure had high praise from architectural critics; nevertheless, citizens who campaigned to save it lost to

library trustees keen to have a new building because of a perceived lack of space and cost issues. While contemporary in style the new building does have a fairly warm feel and good urban interface to the sidewalk. The main library entrance is on Russell and the tool lending library on MLK Jr Way. Initially there was reluctance among some library trustees to rename the library after a person since this had not been done before in the city but proponents for commemorating Pittman finally won out.



Wat Mongkolratanaram

This time go east (toward the hills) on Russell. On the left side two older residences at 1911 and 1913 Russell as well as the building set back with the address of 1915 are now the Wat Mongkolratanaram (10), a Thai Buddhist temple. A brightly colored and elaborately carved entryway in traditional Thai Style is the remarkable feature of 1911 Russell. Many Thai-American Buddhists and Thai students at UC attend the temple, which offers a popular Sunday brunch that raises money for youth programs and charitable causes.

Between 1929 and 1933 Russell is the entrance to the Berkeley Zen Center, founded in 1967 and at this site since 1979. It offers instruction in zazen, or seated meditation; retreats; and a variety of other programs. You may go through the gate on the paved path past the mailboxes to see the wooden building in the back, but be quiet and respectful, as people may be meditating and in front are private homes. [During the pandemic the center is closed.] At 1935-37 Russell is a large 1906 house, now a multi-unit residence. It has two second floor bays and a porch with overhead trellis for the entry on the west side facing a substantial yard. There is another living unit over the rear garage.

Go left on Milvia; along the right side are tall sweetgum (liquidambar) trees which feature long-lasting bright colors in autumn. The street was named by developer Felix Chappellet for his wife Milvia. Then cross Oregon Street and go left. The south (left) side of Oregon is mainly stucco California bungalows and the north side a mixture of brown shingle homes and Craftsman, and Colonial Revival bungalows. Particularly notable is 1911 Oregon (11) on the right, a 1915 brown shingle Craftsman with extensive brickwork (fairly uncommon in Berkeley residences) for the stairs, porch, chimney, retaining wall and garage. If you need to cut the walk short just go one block left at MLK Jr Way back to the starting point.

To continue the walk turn right on MLK Jr Way and at Stuart Street look across MLK to the northwest corner to see at 2746 MLK (12) a front wall with embedded pottery, tiles and other materials forming mosaics. Now turn right on Stuart. There are a number of camphor trees on the north (left) side of Stuart with shiny red or green leaves that are fragrant when crushed. The block is a mix of styles including bungalows and Colonial Revival homes. Farther along the brown shingle house on the right at 1928 Stuart (13) was formerly the home of author Dorothy Bryant who passed away in 2017. She was a novelist, playwright and essayist who was particularly known for her mystical, feminist, fantasy novels such as *The Kin of Ata Are Waiting for You*. Bryant was also a founding member of the Aurora Theatre Company in Berkeley. Then at 1945 Stuart (14) at the northwest corner with Milvia is a large two story Victorian that was perhaps further raised up at some point and is now multi-unit. It features two story bays, decorative shingle patterns, a turret with conical cap and a tall California desert fan palm on the left side.

Just past Milvia at 2005 Stuart (15) is a charming, well-preserved 1895 Victorian cottage that also features decorative shingles as well as unusual lattice work over the porch entry, various other ornamental elements and a finely divided front window. Return to Milvia and head north (right). At the end of the block on the southwest corner (2730 Milvia)



2005 Stuart Street

(16) is a 1933 house in bright orange and yellow stucco with a red tile roof. After Ward you pass the King Child Development Center on the left (1939 Ward Street), one of three Berkeley Unified School District preschool campuses for lower income families.

The huge Berkeley Iceland structure (now Sports Basement) is on the right at 2727 Milvia (17). Berkeley Iceland opened in 1940 financed by shares sold to the community residents and businesses; its huge size and ample windows for lighting made it a long term popular venue. Iceland had a rich history of famous figure skaters and national championships. However, in later years demands by the city to put in a new less dangerous refrigeration system and hazardous materials fees as well as declining attendance caused the owners to close it in 2007. Local activists succeeding in getting



Berkeley Iceland

the building landmarked to protect it, helping derail a plan to raze it and construct condominiums, but they could not raise enough money to purchase it. Landmarking protects the exterior but not the uses and in 2014 Sports Basement opened a large retail store here after restoring the exterior and remodeling the interior but preserving the concrete floor, windows and some iceland rink signage so if it is open you can go in to see the spacious interior.

At the end of this block continue past Derby Street to Carleton Street, passing on the right the UC physical plant campus services (18) and other UC maintenance with lots of parked vehicles. The right side of Milvia is also lined with sweetgum trees in this block. At Carleton cross and go left. On the south side is Tim Moellering Field operated by the Berkeley Unified School District with areas for baseball, soccer and basketball and renovated around 2013 including a reconfiguration of Derby Street. On the north side are a number of Colonial Revival houses such as 1937, 1935 and 1933 Carleton (19), all built in 1908. 1933 Carleton has a paint job to bring out details of the Colonial Revival features such as the sculpted capitals on the columns. Afterward there are some nice craftsman bungalows.

Turn right on MLK Jr Way and at Parker Street note across on the northwest corner (20) a former church with tower has been turned into a residence. Then turn right on Parker Street, named after George F. Parker, an early Berkeley town trustee. At 1901 and 1905 Parker are two older four-unit apartment buildings, from 1930 and 1921 respectively. They fit the scale and style of the neighborhood, unlike most of the 1960s apartment buildings dotting today's walk with their lack of any concern for the neighborhood in which they were built. This block also features mostly Craftsman

houses on the south side and Colonial Revival on the north. At 1915 Parker (21) is a simple but handsome stucco Craftsman (coincidentally built in 1915) with a muscular porch, large brackets and detailed first floor window designs. Next door at 1919 Parker the 1912 house has a flowering vine painted boldly on the front wall and a butterfly sculpture perched on the corner of the roof.



1919 Parker Street

Beyond this at 1921-31 Parker is a row of 1907 Colonial Revival houses in two story American Foursquare plan that are very similar and obviously all done by the same builder giving a distinct rhythm to the block.

They have protruding first floor corner bays in varied configurations. Across the street 1936 Parker (22) is a 1908 Craftsman that is different from the others on today's walk in that the gables are on the sides so that the wide roof slopes down toward the street over an entrance stair and porch the full width of the house and is surmounted by a wide multi-window dormer. 1940 Parker is a large two story 1908 brown shingle with some accents such as the ornamentation on the sides of the gate and when you cross Milvia and look back that side has an unusual oval window on the upper rear portion (you may have to cross Milvia to see it).

In the next block is a very striking house at 2005 Parker (23) that has Victorian elements in the bays, gable and corner turret but Colonial Revival in the porch columns and window mullion design. Then 17 Parker farther along has a very vivid color scheme; it was built around 1910.

At Shattuck the two near corners on each side of Parker (24) were redeveloped as Parker Berkeley (2038 and 2037 Parker) with 155 new housing units and the Equinox Fitness Center. 2038 Parker on the right utilized the facade of the old Honda dealership on the first floor but otherwise the three buildings follow a contemporary style that emphasizes asymmetry in a varied facade and a number of the apartments have recessed verandas. Behind 2037 on Parker are four three-story townhouses. Somehow the architecture of the five floor apartment buildings seems cold and uninspired. The development does offer new housing in an area of South Shattuck that was low density and rather run down in places.

Go right on Shattuck and then right on Carleton. On the opposite corner the Aquatic Shattuck Apartments from 2021 at 2640 Shattuck has architecture that emphasizes the vertical and the design seems warmer and more appealing than the Parkers. Going down Carleton on the right side the 1914 stucco house at 2031 Carleton (25) has a

somewhat unusual forward-thrusting entryway. 2023 Carleton is a 1906 Brown Shingle that had a subsequent major renovation with a large window in the tall front gable and 2011 Carleton is a 1922 bungalow in bright colors with later alterations including a sun sculpture in the gable. Turn left on Milvia to return to Russell and right to the starting point. You can also return on Shattuck and Adeline or MLK Jr Way but Milvia is the quietest route. Alternatively you can take either Milvia or Shattuck going the opposite direction north to go to the downtown Berkeley transit center which is just a little farther than going back to Ashby BART.



2011 Carleton Street

Walk 36

From North Berkeley BART

Overview: The walk explores streets north and west of the North Berkeley BART station with an eclectic mix of houses and apartment buildings, fine street trees and paths following a former railway line. It is fairly flat and easy walking with options to vary the length of the outing.

Highlights:

- * Murals and sculptures
- * Gardens and street trees
- * Variety of architecture

Distance: 3.75 miles; 1.5 or 2.5 miles with shortcuts

Elevation gain: 155 feet; 75 or 110 feet with shortcuts

Getting there: Start at the northwest corner of the BART parking lot at Virginia Street and Acton Street. Parking may be available on nearby streets but pay attention to time limits. You can also arrive via BART or via AC Transit lines that serve the Sacramento Street corridor. From the BART exit go toward Virginia Street (with the hills to your right) and then left to Acton.

Just a little south of the corner in front of the BART electrical structure you can get a better view of the house across the street, 1378 Virginia Street (1), with its high hedge. Built around 1884, it is an older and larger house than those in the immediate surroundings though the original style is unclear and there have seemingly been alterations. The porch extends around two sides and the trim over it is quite charming with numerous arches and inset lattice work. There are also colored glass squares around the upper part of the front windows.

Go right or north on Acton, crossing Virginia and Acton to go on the left side to 1614 Acton (2), an 1894 house in shades of blue and gray with elements of both Victorian style (the fish scale shingles, some of the ornamentation and the angled corner windows in the projecting section at right) and Colonial Revival style (the Palladian window in the gable and the classical columns on the porch). The ornamentation running across the upper front and around the window is perhaps of later vintage but still very appealing.



Backtrack a little on Acton, cross carefully to go left (east toward the hills) up Lincoln Street which jogs with a curve as it goes east towards Sacramento Street. This is typical of several of the curving streets within larger blocks in this area that would seem to be later subdivisions of the land as the houses are generally more recent (1930s) than some on the periphery of the larger blocks. This is the most pleasant of these and while the architecture is not exceptional, there are well kept gardens and residences in a variety of styles, particularly California stucco bungalows with elements of Mediterranean design.

At Sacramento go left, passing the compound of the Berkeley Friends Church (Quaker) and Cedar Creek Montessori School. The building is a rather simple contemporary style with no ornamentation; there is an impressive araucaria tree in front. Turn left on

Cedar Street. Just beyond the church at 1474 Cedar (3) —the number somewhat hidden on the side—the house has a striking Asian style garden with different shapes of large rocks set in ground cover and pebbles of various colors, as well as ceramics, clocks, small sculptures and diminutive shrubs.

Return to Sacramento and cross Cedar to the left, heading north on Sacramento. After passing several houses and just after 1552 Sacramento go left on the signed Keoncrest Path. As you approach Keoncrest drive note the house to the left at 1488 Keoncrest (4). This was the family home of musician Phil Lesh who was born in Berkeley and went to Berkeley High School. He is best known as the bassist and a singer with the Grateful Dead and was a founding member of the group and played with them for 30 years. He first studied the violin and then the trumpet, and he didn't take up bass until he joined the Dead and his background in classical music and jazz led him to be an innovator on electronic bass who pushed the instrument from being just a timekeeper to a lead instrument virtually equal with the guitar. He continued playing with various groups after the Dead disbanded.

Turn right on Keoncrest and then when you get to Rose Street note the Berkeley Ruth Acty Elementary School (formerly Jefferson Elementary) across the street (renovated in 2016). Ruth Acty was the an

educator, author and actor, the first African American teacher hired by the Berkeley Unified School District. Go right on Rose Street, passing across the street The Crowden Music Center (5) (formerly The Crowden School). This was originally the older part of Jefferson School, designed in 1921 by Henry Gutterson. As Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association notes there are fanlight windows over the doors at the recessed Rose Street entrance, a reference to Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, that he designed near Charlottesville, Virginia. The building has other attractive features in the windows, bays, roof gables etc. but is fairly simple and unassuming.



The Crowden Music Center

In 1987 the school district sold the building to The Crowden School. This private school was founded by violinist Anne Crowden in 1983 and provides a very strong education in music for children in grades 3-8 while seeking to balance this with a first-class academic education, sports, and art as well as learning to get along with others.

The Crowden Music Center also has numerous concerts and events for the students and community members.

Go left on Sacramento past a small grove of redwoods near the sidewalk and cross Ada Street and go left on it, passing farther along the somewhat less attractive modern part of the Jefferson School on the opposite side of Ada. 1421 Ada (6) has a striking garage door painting with a stable full of zebras and a distant view of Hawaiian tropical paradise painted by Cynthia Kelly. There may also be a zebra stripe painted car parked in front.

Then at 1411 Ada is a 1938 Spanish style house with an eclectic and fun sculpture collection in front. The house next to it at 1409 Ada has bright colors, a pointed arch window and a garden with large rocks. At the northwest corner with Acton is a Spanish style duplex (7) with corner turret (addresses are 1440 Acton and 1399 Ada). The second block of Ada heading west has quite a few well tended front gardens with a great variety of styles, colors and textures featuring rocks or unusual shrubs or flowers, etc. that give the street considerable charm, enhanced by its relative quiet due to scanty traffic at most hours. There are also some ornamental pear trees with bright fall color.

At the southeast corner of Ada and Ordway at 1328 Ada (8) is a good example of how to make a privacy fence attractive to the pedestrian realm featuring a handsome wooden fence set back from a stone retaining wall with varied plantings between them. This is in contrast to some houses in Berkeley that have been putting up rather ugly bare concrete walls next to the sidewalk that send a rather unfriendly message to the pedestrian.



Landscaping at Ordway and Ada

Go left on Ordway, passing a succulent and cactus garden at 1473 Ordway, and at Rose turn left. At the corner 1363-65 Rose is a duplex from 1931 with twin high peaked gables. Then 1381 Rose (9) is a 1906 house with Victorian elements (though built slightly after the Victorian period) that has seemingly been significantly altered but has an unusual design of projecting wings with a central portion set back. Just a little farther at 1389 Rose a large house from around 1920 has also been al-

tered and enlarged with an indeterminate style but it has a diverse collection of roof designs including a jerkin head gable on the upper front and a very nicely detailed front window.

Go just a few steps farther past a succulent garden and 1391 Rose and then cross Rose at the stop sign and go back down the other side of Rose, heading away from the hills. After a couple of blocks Cedar Rose Park will be on the left, a well-used small public park that has a lawn area, picnic tables, two playgrounds, and an arbor with wisteria as well as tennis courts on the north side of Rose. There is also a recreation center that is leased to the Ala-Costa Center for the Developmentally Disabled. The Ohlone Greenway in its route from downtown Berkeley to Richmond also passes through the park. There is a public restroom on the other side of the park near the playground. The site was originally along the route of the Santa Fe Railroad, which the Ohlone Greenway follows in most of this area. BART tracks pass underground beneath that right of way at this point. Enter the park or not as you like.

Optional shortcut: If you are running short of time, take the path to the left on the east side of the park and carefully cross Cedar Street in the crosswalk to keep on the path and bear left near the basketball court to continue on the Ohlone Greenway back to the starting point. At another time you could start at the park or use the Ohlone Greenway to get back to Cedar Rose Park, cross the park to Rose and continue on the next part of the walk.

To continue the walk head west on Rose on the left or south side of the street and at the second intersection cross and go left on Belvedere Avenue. Note at 1508-10 Belvedere (10) on the right side a large 1913 Brown Shingle house with window panes featuring a diamond pattern on the upper part. Next there are cacti and succulents between the sidewalk and a fence at 1512 Belvedere. On the opposite side in front of 1513 Belvedere there are some giant cacti, perhaps in bloom.

Turn right on Cedar, noting in passing in the block after Curtis the large formiums with their narrow, pointy leaves at 1215 Cedar (11), the spiky plants in front of 1211 Cedar and the sculpted conifers at 1207 Cedar.

Cross Cornell and another block farther along very carefully cross Cedar in the crosswalk at Stannage to proceed right on Cedar towards the signal at San Pablo Avenue. On the right or northeast corner is Animal Farm, a locally owned pet supplies store, and on the left or southeast corner is a retail outlet for Berkeley's famed Acme Bread (scheduled to move), the Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant (12), a highly respected operation since 1972



Cacti at 1513 Belvedere

and a cafe; it is a pleasant little ensemble of shops that includes some shaded benches near the sidewalk.

Return back up Cedar to Kains Avenue and turn right. San Pablo follows the route of one of the earliest through roads in the East Bay and on Kains, the nearest parallel street to it, are some historic buildings. There are quirky houses and apartments such as 1618 Kains (13) from 1913 with Mission Revival front gable and unique second floor windows or 1624 Kains, a 1911 home with a fairly uncommon double gable, ornate small brackets under the cornice and a succulent/lavender/sage garden in front. Then 1631-33 Kains, on the other side, is a duplex from 1915 with a porch all across the front and a terrace above it, a grander than usual residence for this neighborhood; it was subsequently joined to 1629, a stucco bungalow on the left.

At the end of the block across Virginia Street is the large campus of the Berkeley Adult School, a fine community service but not terribly distinguished architecturally and its footage on commercial San Pablo creates a dead zone with a fenced off parking lot. Anyway on this side going left up Virginia at 1125-1131 Virginia (14) is a small 1943 Mediterranean style multi-unit split level building that resembles small townhouses. Virginia Street has lots of London plane (sycamore) trees with peeling bark and big maple-like leaves, the same trees that are planted along the Champs Elysees in Paris. They do enhance just about any street.

Go left on Stannage Avenue and at 1642 Stannage (15) is a very contemporary style house set back very far from the street with a big lawn which looks oddly postwar suburban for this street in terms of the setback. A date of 1948 is given but it obviously has been remodeled since then considering the style. Next door at 1638 Stannage is a 1925 house raised up and drastically remodeled in 2015. There is a very tall Washingtonia desert fan palm



1611 Stannage

across the street at 1629 Stannage with old fronds hanging down like a huge gray beard. More typical of the homes on this street than the first house noted are stucco bungalows of which 1611 Stannage (16) from 1937 is a rather pleasant example. In fact this street and the parallel block of Cornell you will walk on next have an assortment of bungalows in varied styles, some remodeled so that they lose character and others more sensitively renovated.

Turn right on Cedar and right again on Cornell Avenue. 1617-19 Cornell is a major renovation of a brown shin-

gle duplex and 1626 is a stucco house remodel. Here and there along the street are sweet gums with their maple like leaves and vivid autumn colors as well as Japanese cherry blossom trees. Farther down the block on the left side between the houses numbered 1641 and 1645 (17) is a large grove of giant yucca both in front of and beyond a wooden fence and gate. Some Chinese pistache trees with their brilliant autumn tints are on the west side near the end of the block.

Go left on Virginia a couple of blocks past Belvedere to Chestnut Street where there is another succulent garden on the right at the corner house (18).

Optional shortcut: if you need to cut short the walk continue on Virginia a few blocks to the walk starting point at Virginia and Acton.

For the last segment of the walk turn right on Chestnut street from Virginia. This is a short block with some olive trees along the sidewalk. Then go right on Francisco Street where at 1225 Francisco (19) is an unusual 1925 two floor residence with a projecting upper floor and recessed garage and entryway. On the same side 1207 Francisco is a charming 1925 California bungalow with arched doorway, an ornate grill, window shutters and planter boxes though it is partially obscured by colorful landscaping, Next door 1205 Francisco is an 1898 Victorian cottage, and next to that at 1201 Francisco on the northeast corner with Curtis Street is a former store that was turned into a residence.

Without going down Francisco note that from the northwest corner is one of the scattered site public housing developments that the City of Berkeley built in the 1980s to provide more affordable housing that fit into existing residential neighborhoods at various places in the city.



1207 Francisco

Furthermore, no need to walk there but farther down in the next block at 1126 Francisco was where writer Philip K. Dick lived in the early 1950s. At this time he was working in a record store on Telegraph Avenue and got his first works of science fiction published. Though mainstream recognition came late he is viewed as a genius in the world of science fiction and fantasy. He wrote 44 published novels and around 120 short stories. Many films such as *Blade Runner*, *Total Recall*, and the series *The Man in*

the High Castle are based on his works. He was a graduate of Berkeley High School and attended UC but dropped out. Later on he moved to southern California.

Turn left at Curtis and proceed one block and cross Delaware Street. In the next block 1815 Curtis has several large native manzanitas in front that bloom in late winter/early spring. Then 1821-25 Curtis (20) is a brightly colored 1917 triplex with elements of



1901 Curtis

Spanish style; there are two residences upstairs on the second floor and another apparently in the former garage space and lower floor. Just beyond that on the the southeast corner with Hearst Avenue at 1901 Curtis (21) is an unpainted cottage that looks extremely old from the simplicity and the rear shed roof design with its changing slope. Internet sites give a date of 1870, which is possible and would make it one of the oldest houses in Berkeley.

At this point it is useful to note a bit of history. An Irishman born in 1820

named Michael Curtis who had immigrated via Boston was reportedly the first Anglo to have a farm in Berkeley. It comprised about 150 acres roughly bounded by what are now Sacramento, Cedar, San Pablo and Addison Streets and his house was near what is now Curtis Street fairly close to this spot on our walk. The first Catholic mass in Berkeley was held in his farmhouse in 1877. He and his wife both passed away in 1906 after raising seven daughters and two sons. He has left behind his name as one of the longer but lesser known streets in Berkeley; in fact the street extends from Dwight way some blocks south of here into Albany on the north, ending at Kensington Circle.

Cross Hearst in the crosswalk if you have not already done so and go right in the crosswalk over Curtis to go west down the right side of Hearst (the street has jogged somewhat here). Halfway down the block on either side are some older two-story apartment complexes with features such as landscaping, shutters, wood trim and railings and other features that make them considerably more appealing than the concrete block structures built over parking areas that were put up in much of Berkeley in the 1960s and 1970s. 1129 Hearst (22) is a 1918 Colonial Revival bungalow with columns on the porch and three more residences built in 1991 behind it.

At 1109-21 is a compound with a historic house on the right in front that was raised up and newer units behind and to the left. These include several three-story residences in wood and stucco built on the lot. They are rather pleasant with the preserved ma-

ture trees and some traditional design elements. There was considerable opposition to this project when proposed around 2000 though considering the mixed nature of the street and the proximity to busy San Pablo Avenue, it is hard to see why it stirred so much controversy, perhaps due to the height.

At San Pablo Avenue cross Hearst to the left to see the building at the southeast corner of Hearst and San Pablo (23). Formerly a nondescript sofa store it has been transformed into the Casa de Cultura, a Brazilian culture center featuring Capoeira and other activities. The bright murals on the Hearst and San Pablo sides are very striking.

Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art that combines elements of dance, acrobatics, and music and is sometimes regarded as a game; it was developed by African descendants in Brazil with some native American influences and is characterized by quick and complex moves. Zumba and West African dance are also offered at this location. The capoeira center was previously downtown but has settled in here very well. Sometimes the side door on Hearst is open allowing you to see and hear what is going on.



Capoeira mural

Now return back east on Hearst away from San Pablo, walking on the south side this time. On the right at 1120 Hearst is the large 1929 apartment building called the Marianne apartments that has a numerous bays, little balconies at the emergency fire stair and a landscaped entry court on the west side with a few Spanish design elements. Near the end of the long block at 1164 Hearst (24) is a 1918 Craftsman house with large sculpted brackets and appealing window design.

At Curtis turn right to see the very colorful paint job on an apartment building in Mediterranean style at 1944 Curtis (25) on the west side also from 1929 like the Marianne apartments, built in the boom just before the great depression. Return to Hearst, cross it carefully in the crosswalk and cross Curtis to the right to continue east on Hearst where it jogs.

After crossing Chestnut in the middle of the following block you encounter a pedestrian and bike path (the West Street Path) that follows the route of the old Santa Fe Railroad and was recently opened from the Ohlone Greenway further north to Strawberry Creek Park the other side of University Avenue. Especially if it is late autumn we suggest taking this greenway one block right to Berkeley Way. Up and down Berkeley way

for two blocks the street is lined on both sides with many sweet gum trees (liquidambar) that turn brilliant colors from October through about December, depending on the particular tree and climate conditions. There is also a minipark with playground.

Next to the path 1301-05 Berkeley Way (26) is another shop that was turned into a residence, this time preserving the shop windows. As a historical note, farther left up the street 1387 Berkeley Way, near Sacramento Street, was for a time the home of George Marion Johnson who received a doctorate of law from UC Berkeley, one of the first African Americans to hold this advanced degree; subsequently he held many positions in the academic and government worlds including Dean of Howard University Law School and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria that he helped found. He was also actively engaged in major civil rights cases and held important positions in civil rights committees/commissions under Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson.

There are several choices of route from here. You can return on the path to Hearst noting that it is lined with camphor trees with their shiny red or green leaves that are quite fragrant when crushed but many of the trees seem to be suffering from age and the drought and some are being replaced with young trees, perhaps a kind of box elder. You can then continue north on the West Street Path to Virginia Street and then go right to the starting point at Acton.

Or you can go up either Berkeley Way or Hearst to Acton and go left back to the starting point. This could be preferable if it is a very warm, sunny day as this route tends to have more shade.

Finally if you started doing the final segment at Rose/Cedar Park continue north on the West Street Path until it joins the Ohlone Greenway and follow it, crossing the park.