VI. Sunnyvale's Lost Resources

The City of Sunnyvale has made progress over the past few years to incorporate historic preservation into its planning and management policies. Much of the effort to initiate and sustain an effective program of heritage resource conservation has stemmed from the concerns of private citizens over the loss of irreplaceable City landmarks. The destruction of these heritage properties has diminished the community's character as well as its historic identity.

A sense of this loss is captured in some of the properties no longer standing. For example, the Bayview Farm, the 1851 home of the Martin Murphys, recognized as Sunnyvale's first family, was sold to the City for a public park in the 1950s and subsequently listed as a State Historic Landmark. It was bulldozed rather than restored after a fire in 1961. Similarly, the 1895 Butcher family farmhouse and outbuildings which



Martin Murphy home.

California History Center.

marked Butcher's corner at the juncture of Fremont Avenue and El Camino Real were destroyed by Santa Clara County in the early 1980s. At the same time other farm homes at 543 Fremont, 333 West Maude, and 437 North Mary were removed to make way for expanding subdivisions.

The Jubilee Incubator Company, built along the Southern Pacific right of way at Sunnyvale and Evelyn avenues in 1908, was one of the City's first industries. One of the community's finest examples of early industrial architecture, it was demolished for development in the mid-1980s. Perhaps the most notable loss besides the Bayview Farm was Schukl's California Canners and Growers office building, designed by William W. Wurster. Although not constructed until 1942, architectural historian Wayne Andrews said in his book, Architecture, Ambitions and Americans, that it "is likely to be remembered as one of the incomparable business buildings of the 20th century." Denied landmark status by the City in 1984, it was subsequently demolished.

Not every old building can or should be saved, nor by the same token, should every new building be built. A balance can be struck through adequate research and municipal processes so that significant historic resources can join with new structures in contributing to Sunnyvale's evolving city scape.



Schukl's California Canners and Growers office building. Camera Mart.

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VII. Nostalgic Sunnyvale

Nostalgia, by definition, is a longing for something long ago or far away. Here we look at cultural aspects from Sunnyvale's past that, although gone, certainly are not forgotten. The memories evoked by these once tangible aspects of Sunnyvale's life still constitute a part of the intangible glue which holds the community together and represents its historic character as much as any existing landmark.

For example, there are many Sunnyvale citizens who well recall the old Encina School. Some of these residents attended classes there. They remember hitching rides on the old city water wagon during hot summer days and recall the sounds and smells of the steam locomotives which chugged through Murphy's Station. Even more residents can remember the City's electric Sunnyvale sign at Murphy Avenue and El Camino Real, when both thoroughfares were lined with neat orchards. The old City Hall also is fresh in the minds of many citizens as a centerpiece of community activities, especially during the holiday season, when the volunteer fire department decorated the City tree and hung festive lights along the colonaded walkways.

CITY WATER WAGON



The Camera Mart.

As late as 1912 Sunnyvale's streets remained unpaved. Pioneer resident Elsie Shurra Burnett, whose brother ran a candy store on Murphy Avenue described the central business district "where the sidewalks were wooden planks and the streets were paved with mud." To keep the dust down in the dry season, the City had a water wagon. One of its early operators, Byron Maginnis, had migrated to Sunnyvale around 1891 from Canada. He was a nephew of Fred Cornell, the town's first postmaster and grocer. Joining Maginnis on his daily rounds was a pleasant childhood pastime for Sunnyvale youngsters.

ENCINA SCHOOL



Sunnyvale's first school was put under construction in 1899 when the town was still called Encinal. Until then local youngsters had to travel to Mountain View to attend classes. The prominent bell tower of the two story, wood framed structure in the wheat stubble at the corner of Frances and McKinley was the town's first public building and visible landmark. Classes convened in September 1900, and Miss Jenni Cilker of Los Gatos was paid about \$40 per month to be the sole teacher for all classes. One of the school's first pupils, Manuel Vargas, remembered that students in each grade knew

California History Center.

the lessons of all other grades, as they all heard each other recite.

The 1906 earthquake damaged the building so badly that the second story had to be razed. Subsequently the facility was enlarged to two buildings and named the Sunnyvale School. In January 1915 a new grammar school building featured a 350 seat assembly hall, six classrooms, a library, and administrative and storage areas. The original bell is at the Heritage Tree Grove.

rchard Homes

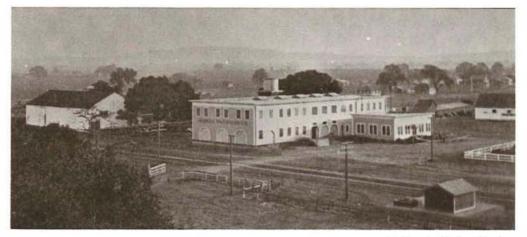
California History Center.

Sometimes called the "Father of Sunnyvale," William Everett Crossman was born in River Falls, Wisconsin in 1858. At age 18 he moved to South Dakota Territory, where he worked successfully as a general merchant. He moved on to California in 1887, entering the real estate business in San Jose. In 1898 he purchased 200 acres of the Bayview Farm for \$38,000 from Patrick Murphy and laid out a townsite. South of the Southern Pacific right of way, it was bounded by McKinley Avenue on the south, Mathilda Avenue on the west, and Bayview Avenue on the east.

Crossman conceived of a factory town similar to those he had known along the shores of the Great Lakes, this one to be served by both the railroad and a proposed deep water port on San Francisco Bay. His promotional skills were considerable and his energy unflagging. In the aftermath of the April 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, he drew a number of new industries into Sunnyvale, expanding the town's economic base and assuring its successful future as a manufacturing center. But an economic depression followed the San Francisco tragedy, slowed Sunnyvale's progress temporarily, and led Crossman to sell some of his community interests in 1915 and trade others for investment properties in Los Angeles.

The Crossman name is still identifiable in some subdivision names throughout Sunnyvale, including the Diana Addition (after his wife) and the Pauline Tract (after his daughter). Crossman died in 1926.

W. E. CROSSMAN REALTY



JUBILEE INCUBATOR COMPANY

102 Sunnyvale Avenue

California History Center.

Mr. A. E. Bessey's Jubilee Incubator Company was one of the world's largest manufacturers of incubators, brooders, and poultry supplies. In business since 1882, Jubilee's hot water heating systems became much more popular than other open gas flame systems. A Jubilee trademark on poultry equipment was said to be "the same as Sterling on silver."

Sunnyvale's pioneer promoter W. E. Crossman drew Bessey from his original Oakland facility in 1907 with promises of free land, abundant water, reasonable labor costs, low freight rates, and convenient access to San Francisco. The firm had a work force of about 300, and Bessey located his new plant at the southeast corner of Evelyn and Sunnyvale avenues adjacent to the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks.

In 1922 Bessey's son-in-law F. D. Cornell took over the business, vowing to make Sunnyvale "the egg basket of the world." But the company failed during the Great Depression. A coffin manufacturing firm took over its buildings, replaced during World War Two by a producer of gas mask filters. Later the Bowser Gas Pump Company followed by the Coin Wrapping Division of Brandt Industries used the facility. Although listed on Sunnyvale's Historic Resource Inventory, this landmark manufacturing facility was demolished in 1983, the victim of new development.



In 1864 the San Francisco and San Jose Railroad Company established a route between its namesake cities, crossing over a portion of Martin Murphy Jr.'s Bayview Farm. In exchange for the right of way, the railroad allowed Murphy two locations on his property for passenger pick-up. One was called Lawrence Station and located in Santa Clara. The other, called Murphy's Station, was a few hundred yards from the ranch headquarters in what would become Sunnyvale. Murphy also received a 15 year pass for travel on the railroad.

Because of Murphy's great influence in the Santa Clara Valley, Murphy's Station became a popular stop for visiting dignitaries enroute between San Francisco and San Jose. An California History Center.

1899 photo shows the site as a shingled, hip roofed, open shelter supported by wooden posts. By this time the area was called Encinal. After 1901, with the development of Sunnyvale as the "City of Destiny," a station was moved from another locality to replace the open shelter. Located at the junction of Evelyn Avenue and Taaffe Street, the building had separate waiting rooms for men and women, each equipped with a pot bellied stove.

This station served Sunnyvale until 1951, when a freak tornado ravaged a portion of the town and took off the station roof. Southern Pacific disassembled the remaining building, loaded it on a flat car, and took it elsewhere for reassembly.

SUNNYVALE CIVIC CENTER



The Camera Mart.

San Francisco architect A. A. Cantin's design for Sunnyvale's 1929 Civic Center continued the local tradition of building important public and commercial buildings in the Spanish Eclectic style. The \$40,000 complex at the corner of Murphy and McKinley avenues was "U" shaped in plan with single story wings coming off a two story arcaded central block. It had stucco walls, shaped parapets, an arched bell tower, and tile roofs. It contained the Civic Auditorium, Justice Court, a County Library branch, and the Chamber of Commerce. School was conducted in one wing for at least a

year.

The Civic Center hosted an average of 70 meetings each month through its life. The Children's Theater held their annual play in the auditorium and Christmas lights and the official City Christmas tree decorated the facility during the holiday season. For many years it was truly the community center around which Sunnyvale's social life revolved. In 1969 the City demolished the facility, replacing it with the present City Hall at El Camino Real and Mathilda Avenue.

SUTATIVALE FIRE STATION

SUNNYVALE FIRE HOUSE

The Camera Mart.

Located just west of Murphy Avenue, next to the post office on Washington Street, the Sunnyvale Volunteer Fire Department was a civic institution for many years. The volunteers originally organized in 1907 with San Francisco's great fire fresh in their memories, and they provided fire protection for the many new wooden factory buildings in the rapidly expanding community. In March 1914 Sunnyvale officially established the volunteers, and two months later D. J. Williams, the City's first elected Fire Commissioner, offered the building pictured to the City as the new fire house. In 1951 Sunnyvale established a Department of Public Safety, the first city in California to combine fire and police functions.

Over the years the Sunnyvale Volunteer Fire Department

served as an important community social organization. The volunteers initiated an annual picnic for the town's children and hosted a Christmas party for children with a tree, entertainment, and small gifts. They had the responsibility each year for installing Christmas decorations along Murphy Avenue and placing and lighting the official City Christmas tree in the tower of the old City Hall. They organized baseball and volleyball teams and sponsored scouting groups. In the department's 43 years of service, over 130 local men served, including many father and son teams. In August 1950 the volunteers stepped aside as a unit to make way for a larger, professional Public Safety Department to meet the expanded needs of the growing community.

SUNNYVALE SIGN



In November 1920 the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce initiated a project to design and build an illuminated sign over Murphy Avenue at its junction with El Camino Real. The Chamber sought public subscriptions to pay for the sign, asking local fraternal groups to assist in raising funds. In March 1921 the Sunnyvale Standard published the names of

59 contributors. The list of subscribers, whose donations ranged from \$1 to \$100, constituted a "who's who" of Sunnyvale's first families and commercial interests. The Joshua Hendy Iron Works fabricated and erected the electric sign, which for a number of years marked the official entrance to the "City of Destiny."

VIII. Planning Sunnyvale Preservation

Benefits of Conservation

Sunnyvale's pioneer settlers established our path for the future. What they created made it possible for us to establish our own institutions and expand our economic and cultural surroundings. Yet we are building on patterns of land settlement which we inherited from them. Therefore, familiarity with their values and experiences as the City developed over time provides a viable intellectual background for present and future planning.

A principal benefit of historic preservation is economic in character. The ever rising cost of new construction means recycling the past for contemporary uses, and affordable housing is a necessity, not just a sentimental exercise. Quite simply, we cannot afford to rebuild the environment every generation, and it makes good sense to rehabilitate and conserve older properties. Investment in preservation stimulates work for the local building trades and provides reasonably priced, useable space for the community. Continued private use of older buildings and the improvements made to them lead to increased property values and attendant tax benefits.

Preservation also saves energy, an important economic consideration. The residual value of energy built into our older housing stock enormous. Our forebearers invested great time, capital, and energy in original decision making processes, in irreplaceable materials and professional craftsmanship, and in the pure physical effort and fuel consumed by housing construction. Therefore, we waste energy when old buildings are torn down.

Another major benefit of conservation is balance. Com-

munity character is preserved and enhanced if we conserve rather than replace our older buildings. Our past and future join in a continual partnership which makes for orderly growth in the life of our society. Given today's social and environmental conditions, historic preservation is no longer only a matter of taste. It is a sound expression of basic social responsibility. A preservation program arrests decline and provides stability for older neighborhoods, while well maintained historic buildings offer variety, scale, and dignity to the city scape and provide educational opportunities for citizens and visitors to the community.

Heritage Preservation Commission

In 1980 the Sunnyvale Heritage Preservation Commission was created by ordinance. Its seven members were appointed to four year, staggered terms by the City Council. Commission members continue to be selected for their demonstrated interest in the heritage of the City.

The Commission is responsible for production and maintenance of the City's Historic Resources Inventory. It also develops criteria for the Landmarks program, accepting nominations and making recommendations for individual and district listings. The Commission reviews all applications for City permits which may significantly affect Landmarks or Landmark districts. It promotes and conducts public information programs to further the goals of preservation, encouraging citizen participation in support of heritage resources. It also investigates and reports to the Council on public and private funding sources and mechanisms available to promote preservation of the City's Heritage Resources. Finally, the Commission performs studies and offers recommendations related to its mission. Copies of all recommendations, studies, standards, and criteria produced in the exercise of the Commission's duties are made available to the public.

Local Policies and Regulations

Local policies and regulations relative to historic preservation in Sunnyvale may be found in two documents: the "Heritage Preservation Sub-Element" of the City's General Plan, adopted in January 1980; and "Heritage Preservation," Chapter 19.80 of the City Code, adopted in September 1977.

The following excerpt expresses the general policy and, intent of the "Heritage Preservation Sub-Element:"

The intent of this Sub-Element and subsequent ordinances is to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare through the identification, protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of those areas of the City which reflect special elements of the City's heritage resources: architectural, artistic, cultural, technical, aesthetic, historic, political, and social. Heritage resources shall be preserved for the following reasons:

a. to safeguard the City's heritage;

 to increase public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the City's past;

c. to foster civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past as well as the present, and to offer reasons for the people to commit their futures to the City;

d. to enrich human life educationally and culturally by serving aesthetic as well as material needs and fostering knowledge of the living heritage of the past;

e. to enhance the visual character of the City by preserving diverse as well as harmonious architectural

styles and design preferences which reflect various phases of the history of the City, and to encourage complementary contemporary designs and construction;

f. to enhance the attractiveness of the City to visitors, thus stimulating business and industry;

g. to incorporate the preservation of heritage resources into the comprehensive planning process;

h. to identify and resolve conflicts between the preservation of heritage resources and alternative land uses;

i. to develop and maintain appropriate settings and environment for heritage structures.

j. to conserve valuable material and energy resources by continued use and maintenance of the existing built environment;

k. to stabilize neighborhoods and other areas in the City through conservation and rehabilitation of existing housing stock;

 to enhance property values and to increase financial and economic benefits to the City and its inhabitants;

Specific regulations relative to historic preservation are found in the City's Heritage Preservation Ordinance. They include:

a. Landmark designation criteria and procedures;

b. changes of use or multiple residential uses of Landmarks or Landmark districts;

c. construction, demolition, relocation, or material changes to Landmarks and Landmark districts;

d. unsafe or dangerous conditions and showing of hardship;

e. ordinary maintenance and repair.

IX. Researching Your Older Sunnyvale Home

How old is your house? When was it built? Who built it? Who lived in it? What changes have been made to the house over time?

These and many other questions can be answered by searching through public records and other source materials. Knowing the history of your older Sunnyvale house or building will be of help in any planned restoration or repair work you might undertake. If your building qualifies for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and is income producing, you may be eligible for special tax incentives for rehabilitating it under the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

Where to Look

The material you will need to research your home can be found in part at city and county offices. Public records of interest to you will include deeds, wills, tax and census lists, and assessor's records. Records of deeds and wills may be found with the city clerk. At the county tax collector's office, tax records can reveal the dates of first improvements on property, as can assessor's records which also show the names and addresses of those assessed, parcel numbers and acreage, and other information.

Unfortunately, because of space constraints, limited staffing, and inadequate records management policies, some of the earlier documentation of Santa Clara County is no longer available through these sources. It has either been destroyed or transferred to a non-governmental repository. To assure the records you wish to study are on hand, call the city or county office from which you are seeking information in advance of a visit.

Other Source Material

Historical organizations, libraries, preservation organizations, universities, and local newspaper offices may have part of the documentation you will require to research your house. The Sunnyvale Historical Museum in Murphy Park has a considerable amount of information on the community's development, including some public records as well as other written and visual materials. A few copies of early editions of the Sunnyvale Standard are there, while the city library holds a fair collection of the Standard for years since 1907.

The California History Center, located at De Anza College, has historical material on Sunnyvale and a selection of early photographs. Their collection of local history publications contains much geneological information as well.

San Jose's City Museum archive in Kelly Park holds some Santa Clara County records. They have an important collection of San Jose and Santa Clara County Business Directories from the 1880s to present, and Sunnyvale is included in these from the turn of the century into the 1940s. Both the San Jose public library and the special collections section of San Jose State University's library have good selections of these city directories.

Also available at the San Jose City Museum are microfilm copies of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. These maps show Sunnyvale streets from 1930 to 1964, depicting the basic plan of homes and businesses as they sat on their lots. The maps also include information on the materials used to construct each building. Sanborn maps from 1908 and 1911 are available for research from the Sunnyvale Planning Department and also can be found at the Sunnyvale Historical



SANTA CLARA ST.

Museum.

Using your own deed or a copy found in the County Recorder's office, you can trace the chain of title of your property. The Ticor Title Insurance Corporation in San Jose at 110 West Taylor has records dating to the 1840s. One might inquire about using their excellent abstract books to make a title search.

Census records for Sunnyvale, or Encinal, as it was called in 1900, can be obtained on microfilm through interlibrary loan from the Bancroft Library at Berkeley or used at other universities. Geneological information pertaining to early area residents may be found in the historical and geneological collection of the Santa Clara City Library or through the geneological program of Latter Day Saints on Quince Avenue in Santa Clara. Church records and those of community organizations and businesses can be helpful. The Hendy Museum at Westinghouse is also a good local resource, as is the excellent photographic collection held by the Camera Mart on Frances Avenue.

Again, call in advance to these non-governmental institutions to determine their hours of operation, use requirements, and if they may have the information which you are seeking. This will save both you and the agency time and energy in the research process. Although these are not the only resources available to you for researching your Sunnyvale home, they offer a good start.

Santa Clara County Directory, (1929). San Jose Historical Museum Archives.

X. Tips on Improving Your Older Sunnyvale Home

1. A building should reflect as accurately as possible its original design.

2. If old and new design and/or materials are mixed, the original character or design of the structure should be retained.

3. As many original exterior materials should be retained as is economically and/or functionally feasible. Imitation materials or design elements should be avoided whenever possible.

4. Windows should be replaced only if rehabilitation of existing material is not functionally feasible. New windows should generally be of the same size, material, and type as the old ones. Unless architecturally accurate, non-functional decorative window treatment should be avoided.

5. Original doors should be retained. Door treatment not in keeping with the original architectural style and aluminum screens should be avoided.

6. Front porches, entrances, porticos and exterior stairways which were part of the original design should not be removed. Architecturally accurate replacements should be used in repairing or reconstructing porch posts and railings.

7. Exterior colors should be in harmony with the streetscape, contrasting or blending harmoniously with neighboring structures. Bright colors should be used sparingly, for accent, if at all.

8. A building should be in porportion to its neighbors and relate positively to its visual environment. For instance, a building addition which raises the height above that of the adjacent neighboring building should be directed toward the front facade. Similar sensitivity should be directed toward any addition to the side of the building.

9. Architectural details such as fences, roofs, chimneys, cornices, garage doors, and other accoutrements should be appropriate in style to the period of the structure.

10. All landscaping should blend with the surrounding environment. Utilization of existing landscaping elements can unify a neighborhood as well as enhance the individual property.

Overall concern for these exterior rehabilitation standards will create a positive impact on the visual aesthetics of any neighborhood. The natural benefits resulting from successfully following these standards will do much to protect and increase property owner interests while also ensuring enjoyment by future generations of a valuable community heritage resource.

XI. Glossary

Arcaded Wing Wall. An arched extension of the front gabled wall extending beyond the main house. Found on houses in both the Tudor and Spanish Eclectic styles.

Bow Window. A projecting window or group of windows, the face of which is an arc in plan and from which the wall beneath extends to the ground. Associated with the Colonial Revival style.

Bracket. An angled support or pseudo-support placed under roof eaves on cornices, porch columns, doors, and window hoods.

Bulls Eye Window. A circular window with radiating muntins. See p. 115.

Canales. Nonfunctional decorative water spouts in the form of round or half-curved clay pipes extending from the upper wall surface of Spanish Eclectic and some Mission Revival structures.

Cartouche. An ornamental panel appended to a wall surface usually above window heads or entry ways. Often in the form of a scroll or tablet in relief which has elaborate borders. See p. 54.

Clapboard Siding. Exterior, horizontal wooden siding which overlaps because of the gradual thickness of the boards. A general choice for siding in Sunnyvale after 1900. See p. 51.

Classical Portico. An entrance porch constructed of elements based on the arts of ancient Greece or Rome. Usually a pedimented roof supported by columns.

Clipped Gable. A gable cut back at the peak in hip roof form.

Cornice. A horizontal projecting molding at the top of a building.

Craftsman Windows. Large glass panels in doors and windows generally articulated with wooden muntins in rectangular geometric forms. See p. 67.

Cupola. A terminal structure, square or round in plan, which rises above the main roof, sometimes capping a dome.

Dentils. A molding of small toothlike squares. See p. 91.

Dormer Window. A small gable that projects from a sloping roof, frequently containing a window. See p. 55.

Drop Siding. Exterior, horizontal wooden siding rabbited on the lower edge to overlap. Associated with Sunnyvale buildings constructed before 1900.

Eave. The bottom edge of a roof.

Exposed Rafters. Associated with the Bungalow style. Along horizontal edges of the roof eave line, the actual rafter ends are exposed or false rafter ends are added. These are sometimes cut into decorative shapes and are intended to express the building materials. See p. 52.

Eyebrow Window. A dormer, usually of small size, on which its roof line is an arch. See p. 109.

Fan Light. An overdoor window, usually semicircular in shape with radial muntins or lead. Associated with the Colonial Revival style.

Fenestration. The arrangement of windows and other openings in a wall, especially the patterns that such an arrangement defines. See p. 110.

Gable. The triangular portion at the end of the building formed by the two sides of a sloping roof. Gables also are formed by other sloping roof areas, such as those over windows.

Gambrel Roof. A ridged roof which has two slopes on each side, the lower slope having a steeper pitch.

Garlands. Sculptured ornament in the form of a swag or festoon of flowers and fruit, usually in relief. See p. 64.

Half-Timbering. Generally $1'' \times 6''$ wooden boards on a stuccoed wall in a decorative pattern. Copies the medieval English timber framing tradition. Found in the Tudor Revival style.

Hipped Roof. A roof which slopes down on all four sides like a pyramid. It may or may not have a flat top.

Lancet Window. A sharply pointed Gothic arched opening, particularly associated with church architecture.

Muntin. A bar member supporting and separating panes of glass in a sash or door.

Parapet. A low retaining wall at the edge of a roof, porch, or terrace.

Patterned Shingles. Sawn shingles with their exposed surface, the butt, shaped to create unusual patterns such as fish scales, diamonds, and octagons. Associated with the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. See p. 84.

Pediment. A triangular face of a roof gable, especially in its classical form.

Port Cochere. A shelter for vehicles outside an entrance doorway. See p. 50.

Raked Cornice. A slope or inclination, as on a roof plane or gable edge. See p. 127.

Return. A right angle change of a molding which terminates the molding's run. See p. 79.

Ribbon Windows. Three or more uniform, fixed casement or sash type windows in a row. Associated with the Bungalow style. See p. 63.

Side Light. One of a pair of narrow vertical windows flanking a door.

Stucco. Plaster for exterior walls.

Turned Work. Ornamental wood work turned on a lathe, such as spindles and spools. Associated with the Queen Anne style.

Vernacular. Indigenous or characteristic to a locality.

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Although this book is far from complete, we hope that the information contained herein will lead to a continued investigation of Sunnyvale's built environment and to the identification of some practical measures for the retention of significant examples of its building fabric. Such continuing efforts will enable present and future generations to comprehend and experience first hand the distance Sunnyvale has traveled since it was an open hay field south of Martin Murphy's "Bayview Farm."

Kent L. Seavey Project Historian James C. Williams Project Director May 1988