

The Roth Building

THE HISTORIC HOMER AVENUE AREA

Where Palo Alto, Electronics, and Silicon Valley Began

Cowper Street

1916 - The Palo Alto Woman's Club builds its own meeting hall. Its members advocate for women's rights, and they energetically promote libraries, paved streets, and other civic improvements

1901 - Palo Alto's Irish community erects the magnicent St Thomas Aquinas church. A superb example of Carpenter Gothic style, it is a defining feature of Homer Avenue. 1971 - Harold meets Maude here in the classic movie

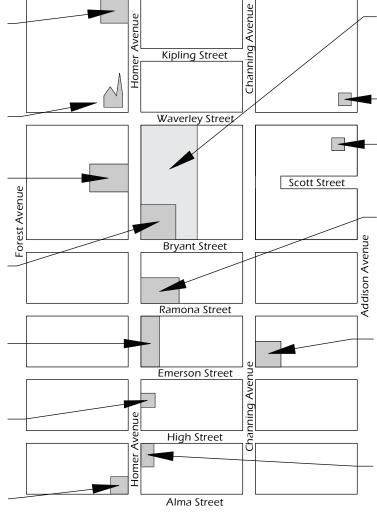
1907 - Williams House. Built by a pioneering Palo Alto physician, it now hosts the Museum of American Heritage

1932 - Visionary Palo Alto physicians engage famed architect Birge Clark to design the elegant mission revival Roth Building, nucleus of the Palo Alto Medical Clinic complex that followed. Victor Arnautov, a noted Depressionera artist, did the murals by its entrance

1900-1928 - Palo Alto's little downtown springs up. Surviving in good condition, it is a living museum of its time, and it continues to serve today's Palo Alto

1890 - Early Palo Alto pioneer Anna Zschokke builds the first house in the new town of University Park (Palo Alto's original name) at 170 Homer Avenue. She mortgages her next house to open Palo Alto's first high school, earning her title The Mother of Palo Alto Schools

1929 - Buy Violet Ray Gasoline at the funky period Pringle Service Station - sole survivor of Palo Alto's original gas stations



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1997-2004 - Six-year neighborhood campaign succeeds. Palo Alto Heritage Park is dedicated to serve today's residents as the newest member of Palo Alto's Corridor of History

Ca. 1913 - A boyhood home of William Shockley, inventor of the transistor - the building block of the silicon chip

1938 - William Hewlett and David Packard begin Silicon Valley in the legendary garage

1925 - AME Zion church (its building survives) and Japanese American neighborhood center anchor early Palo Alto's cultural diversity. 1931. The Cardinal French Laundry (its building also exists today) joins Palo Alto's historic laundry district

1912 - Birthplace of electronics.

Radio pioneer Lee de Forest invents the vacuum tube amplier and oscillator at 913 Emerson Street. The communications and computer revolution that he enabled here has radically influenced world culture and history; its effects are rivaled only by the invention of writing and the printing press

1930 - Site of the Family Service Laundry building, a notable remnant of Palo Alto's historic laundry district and eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Places, demolished for luxury condos in 2004