

UPPER EAST ASSOCIATION SANTA BARBARA

Upper East News

March 2022

<https://sbuppereast.org>

Mission Heritage Trail Walking Guide Now Available

Many Upper East residents enjoy daily walks with views of Mission Santa Barbara and the large lawn area across Los Olivos Street known as the Mission Historical Park or the Rose Garden. Many of us have taken walks along this route with visitors showing them the many hidden gems of both this area and the walk up to the historic Mission Canyon stone bridge or even further to the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum.



Some of you may not know that there is actually much more to see on those walks. With the generous support of three adjoining neighborhood associations – including ours –

the Mission Heritage Trail Association, also known as Safe Passage, has produced a guide to carry along that explains some of the



hidden treasures encountered on the way. *The Mission Heritage Trail: A Walking Guide* is now available at the Old Mission gift shop and at the front desk of the Natural History Museum among other locations, and can also be viewed/downloaded [online](#). It includes a detailed map of the area and the walking corridor between Laguna Street and Las Encinas Road. It also contains selected visual and writ-

ten descriptions of some of the highlights of this walk through one of Santa Barbara’s most historical and treasured spaces.

UEA Makes Donation to Santa Barbara Natural History Museum

In lieu of expenses associated with the cost of our annual meeting, once again postponed due to COVID, the Board voted to donate \$500 to the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum. This gift will support their Nature Adventures Camp scholarships for low-income children in the Santa Barbara community, specifically any children living in the Upper East neighborhood.

Upper East Association Mission Statement
To preserve and enhance the spirit and essence of this historic neighborhood and its quality of life.

Board Elections

At its January 11 meeting the Upper East Association Board of Directors elected the following officers:

- Steve Forsell, co-President
- Rod Hersberger, co-President and Treasurer
- Fred Sweeney, Secretary

The Board also made the following appointments:

- Barbara Harley, Membership
- Beth Perry, Newsletter
- Deb Trauntvein, Safety and Neighborhood Preparedness

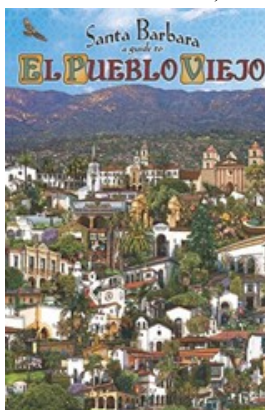
History Corner

100 Years Ago - The City Beautiful Movement and Six Blocks of State Street

At the turn of the 20th century, American cities developed at extraordinary speed. Between 1860 and 1910, the number of American cities with more than 100,000 residents rose from eight to 50.

Cities had to grow along with their residents. What started as a city plan for Chicago in advance of the 1893 World's Fair became a significant urban planning movement called "City Beautiful." This movement aimed to balance invention and innovation alongside continuity and tradition.¹ In addition to creating civic orchestras, museums, and public spaces, this movement also called for the addition of landscaping along boulevards and in urban parks.

Noted architectural historian David Gebbard, in *Santa Barbara: A Guide to El Pueblo Viejo*, describes how city planning took root in Santa Barbara in the early 20th century. Santa Barbara's urban design benefited from advocates for the City Beautiful movement, including Charles M. Cheney, Charles Mumford Robinson, the Olmsted Brothers, and private citizen planning groups.



In the spirit of City Beautiful, horticulture and the arts blossomed as Santa Barbara defined itself as beautiful and preservationist. City planners such as head of the Park Board A. Boyd Doremus transformed the waterfront into a palm-lined promenade, landscaped Plaza del Mar into a Mediterranean-style promenade, and planted and improved parks and public spaces.

¹ Encyclopedia of Chicago – *Architecture: The City Beautiful Movement*

Upper East. Six Blocks. A Cultural Historic Parkway

In the early 1900s, State Street started at the harbor and ended at Mission Creek. The residential area above Mission Street was sparsely developed. Land subdivisions were recorded, but there were no plans for a bridge across Mission Creek.

In early 1917, the proposed traffic plan was to pave State Street from Mission Street to Constance Avenue and provide parking in the middle of State Street. There would be turnouts in the center of each block so motorists would not have to go to Sixth Street to make a U-turn, since State Street was still impassable at Mission Creek without a bridge.

Most likely influenced by the City Beautiful movement, the City Council eventually abandoned the parking proposal – and sometime before the 1925 earthquake occurred a landscaped median was instead created.

By the mid-1920s, these six blocks of landscaped parkways became the gateway to the burgeoning Upper East and the street names were changed from First Street through Sixth Street to the historically evocative Padre, Los Olivos, Pueblo, Junipero, and Quinto Streets and Constance Avenue. The median's palm trees and succulents came to denote a residential estate area.

A recent Upper East Association member survey showed overwhelming support for the historic designation of this parkway. In March, the Association will submit an application to the Historic Landmarks Commission for this parkway to become a "Cultural Landscape Historic Designation." This will provide an additional level of protection for this 100-year-old parkway.





State Street landscaped median



*Watercolor by Fred Sweeney
State Street at Quinto Street Looking Downtown*

Membership

As a new year begins in Santa Barbara, we have a new Mayor, Randy Rowse, and returning City Councilmembers including our District 4 Councilmember Kristen Sneddon. The City Council will face a variety of issues which are relevant to the Upper East-side. It is essential that the Upper East Association have a strong voice in their decisions. The more members we have the stronger is our voice to express our perspectives on any given issue.

Thus, we hope that you will consider renewing your membership in the Upper East Association for 2022 to strengthen our influence in the community. UEA annual dues of \$25 help us provide you with informative newsletters as well as our annual November meeting and other social events.

If you have already renewed for 2022, we thank you. Otherwise please go to our website:

sbuppereast.org/membership