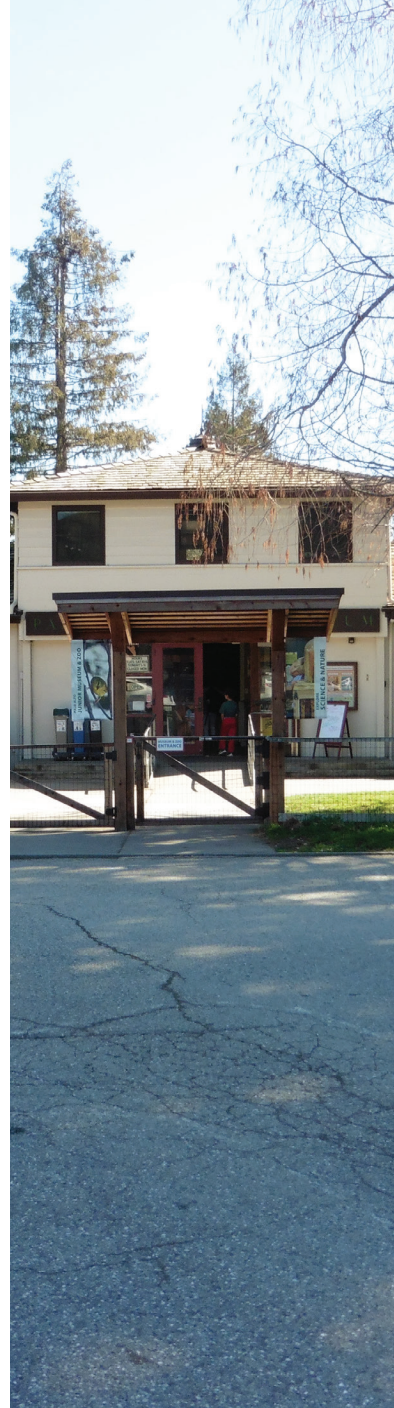


PALO ALTO JUNIOR MUSEUM AND ZOO
1451 MIDDLEFIELD ROAD
HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATION

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA
[15188]

PREPARED FOR:
DAVID J. POWERS & ASSOCIATES



PAGE & TURNBULL

imagining change in historic environments through design, research, and technology

JULY 20, 2016

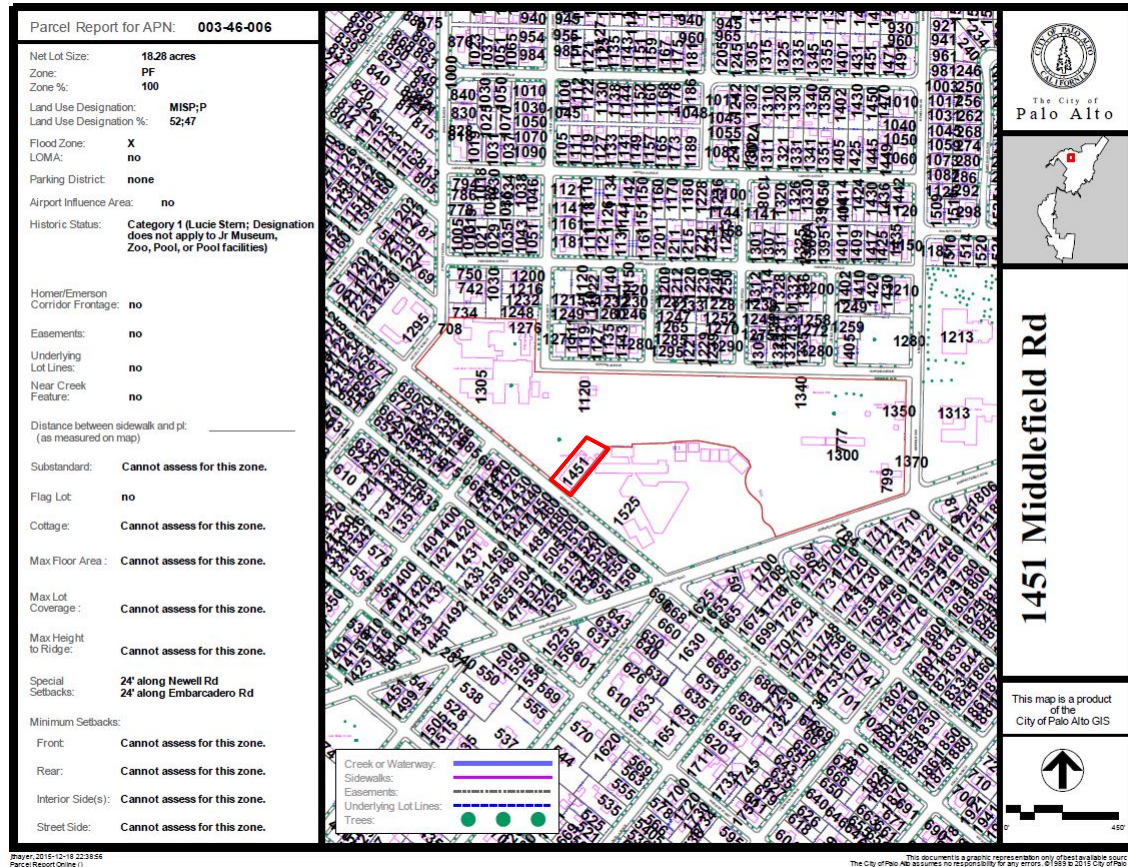
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I. INTRODUCTION

This Historic Resource Evaluation (HRE) Part 1 has been prepared at the request of David J. Powers & Associates for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo in Palo Alto. The building was constructed in 1941 and is located within Rinconada Park on the north side of Middlefield Road (**Figure 1 and Figure 2**). The property is officially addressed at 1451 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, California 94301 (APN 003-46-006).



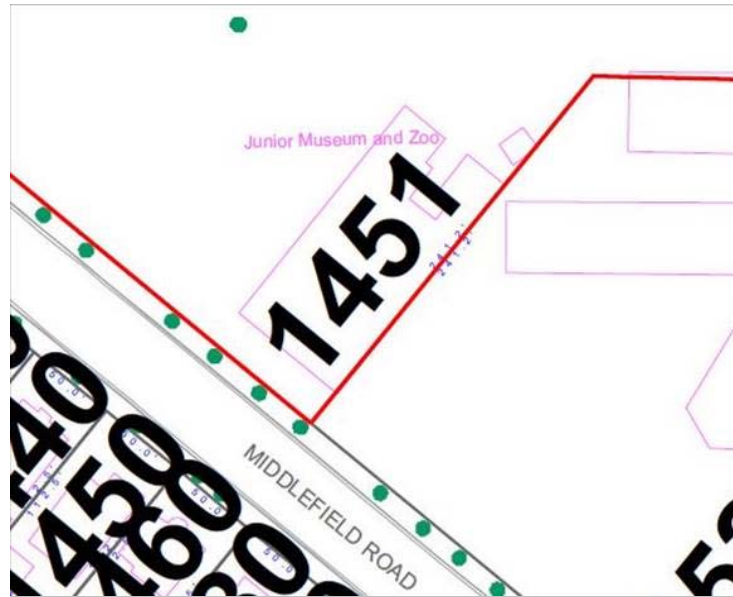


Figure 2. Detail of subject parcel map showing the current footprint of 1451 Middlefield Road in pink.
Source: City of Palo Alto Online Parcel Reports, 2016; edited by Page & Turnbull.

SUMMARY OF DETERMINATION

Constructed in 1941, the building at 1451 Middlefield Road has continually housed the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo. The institution of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo was founded in 1934 and belongs to a nation-wide pattern of children's museums established in the early 20th century. The building at 1451 Middlefield Road has undergone significant alterations over its history and the building has been found not to be eligible for listing the National Register or California Registers under any criteria.

METHODOLOGY

This Historic Resource Evaluation, Part 1 provides a summary of previous historical surveys and ratings, a site description, historic context statement, and an evaluation of the property's individual eligibility for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources and the National Register of Historic Places. This report discusses the institutional history of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo as well as the physical history of the building at 1451 Middlefield Road which was constructed to house the museum in 1941.

Page & Turnbull prepared this report using research collected at various local repositories, including the Palo Alto Public Library, Palo Alto Historical Association, City of Palo Alto Planning and Community Environment Department, Online Archive of California, and various other online sources. Information from Page & Turnbull's previous historical assessment in 2004 also informed this report. Page & Turnbull conducted a site visit in February 2016 to review the existing conditions of the property and formulate the descriptions and assessments included in this report. All photographs were taken by Page & Turnbull in February 2016 unless otherwise noted.

II. CURRENT HISTORIC STATUS

The following section examines the national, state, and local historical ratings currently assigned to the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building at 1451 Middlefield Road.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places (National Register) is the nation's most comprehensive inventory of historic resources. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service and includes buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state, or local level.

1451 Middlefield Road is not currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places individually or as part of a registered historic district.

CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is an inventory of significant architectural, archaeological, and historical resources in the State of California. Resources can be listed in the California Register through a number of methods. State Historical Landmarks and National Register-listed properties are automatically listed in the California Register. Properties can also be nominated to the California Register by local governments, private organizations, or citizens. The evaluative criteria used by the California Register for determining eligibility are closely based on those developed by the National Park Service for the National Register of Historic Places.

1451 Middlefield Road is not currently listed in the California Register of Historical Resources individually or as part of a registered historic district.

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE STATUS CODE

Properties listed by, or under review by, the State of California Office of Historic Preservation are assigned a California Historical Resource Status Code (Status Code) between "1" and "7" to establish their historical significance in relation to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register or NR) or California Register of Historical Resources (California Register or CR). Properties with a Status Code of "1" or "2" are either eligible for listing in the California Register or the National Register, or are already listed in one or both of the registers. Properties assigned Status Codes of "3" or "4" appear to be eligible for listing in either register, but normally require more research to support this rating. Properties assigned a Status Code of "5" have typically been determined to be locally significant or to have contextual importance. Properties with a Status Code of "6" are not eligible for listing in either register. Finally, a Status Code of "7" means that the resource either has not been evaluated for the National Register or the California Register, or needs reevaluation.

1451 Middlefield Road is not listed in the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) database with a status code. The most recent update to the CHRIS database for Santa Clara County that lists the Status Codes was in April 2012.

PALO ALTO HISTORIC INVENTORY

The City of Palo Alto's Historic Inventory lists noteworthy examples of the work of important individual designers and architectural eras and traditions as well as structures whose background is associated with important events in the history of the city, state, or nation. The inventory is organized under the following four Categories:

- **Category 1:** An “Exceptional Building” of pre-eminent national or state importance. These buildings are meritorious works of the best architects, outstanding examples of a specific architectural style, or illustrate stylistic development of architecture in the United States. These buildings have had either no exterior modifications or such minor ones that the overall appearance of the building is in its original character.
- **Category 2:** A “Major Building” of regional importance. These buildings are meritorious works of the best architects, outstanding examples of an architectural style, or illustrate stylistic development of architecture in the state or region. A major building may have some exterior modifications, but the original character is retained.
- **Category 3 or 4:** A “Contributing Building” which is a good local example of an architectural style and relates to the character of a neighborhood grouping in scale, materials, proportion or other factors. A contributing building may have had extensive or permanent changes made to the original design, such as inappropriate additions, extensive removal of architectural details, or wooden facades resurfaced in asbestos or stucco.

1451 Middlefield Road is not currently listed in the Palo Alto Historic Inventory under any category. The subject parcel, which encompasses all of Rinconada Park, is designated in City of Palo Alto records as a Category 1 property because of the Lucie Stern Community Center. The Category 1 designation does not apply to any other building or facility within the park.

HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT (2004)

In 2003, Page & Turnbull conducted a historical assessment of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo facility as part of the Conservation Assessment Program grant awarded by Heritage Preservation. The purpose of the report was to evaluate the potential architectural and historical significance of 1451 Middlefield Road and to evaluate whether or not the building contributed to the significance of the adjacent Lucie Stern Community Center.

Page & Turnbull’s report included a building description, brief history of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, and a preliminary assessment of the building’s individual and contributing significance. The report concluded that the building at 1451 Middlefield Road does not appear to be individually eligible for listing in a local, state, or national register, and that the building does not contribute to the significance of the Lucie Stern Cultural Center. The report also indicated that in the event of a proposed project at the site, the building’s significance under National and California register Criterion A/1 (events) should be further investigated.

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SITE

The building at 1451 Middlefield Road, which houses the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, stands along the southwest edge of Rinconada Park, an 18,257-acre parcel in the Community Center neighborhood (**Figure 3**). A large surface parking lot separates the building from the Lucie Stern Community Center and the Girl Scout Hall. A wood-post and wire fence encloses a lawn, open “science yard” used for activities, and covered sitting area near the primary entrance at the northwest side of the building. The outdoor zoo is located northeast of the museum building. A tall wood slat fence surrounds the zoo area and animal enclosures, separating it from the parking lot and nearby playground.

Originally constructed in 1941, the one-and-two-story building was designed in a vernacular Ranch style. The wood frame building sits on a concrete foundation and occupies approximately 7,051 square feet. The walls are clad in textured stucco. The building is composed of a U-shaped arrangement of two main volumes with central, connecting hyphens. The northwest and southeast volumes have side-gabled roofs. A two-story tower capped with a hipped roof is located within the northwest volume. Between the building’s two main volumes is an enclosed courtyard with a flat roof. The gable and hipped roofs are clad with wood shakes and the central flat roof is covered with built-up roofing.



Figure 3. Aerial photograph of 1451 Middlefield Road, the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo (outlined in red). North is up. Source: Google Maps, 2016; edited by Page & Turnbull.

EXTERIOR

Primary (Northwest) Façade

The primary façade faces northwest onto a small lawn and a parking lot. The façade is composed of two one-story, side-gabled wings extending from the two-story tower, all a part of the northwest volume (**Figure 4**). The north (left) wing contains a band of three wood-frame sliding windows, set within the upper portion of the wall (**Figure 5**).

The two-story tower contains the building's primary entrance at center, accessed by a wide concrete landing with stairs and a ramp. A fully glazed, wood-frame double door leads into the entrance lobby. The door is flanked by two-lite fixed wood-frame sidelights. Two square stucco-clad posts are located on either side of two-story ground floor. The second story of the tower projects slightly from the main plane of the façade. The lower half is clad in flush horizontal wood siding and features a full-width wood sign reading "Palo Alto Junior Museum." The upper half is clad in wood lap siding and contains three double-hung wood-frame windows with wood-frame screens. A metal spire sits at the peak of the hipped roof (**Figure 6**).

The south (right) wing is approximately twice the length of the north wing. The left portion of the wing contains a bay of seven almost full-height fixed wood windows. The eighth bay contains a solid wood door with fixed transom (**Figure 7 and Figure 8**). Right of these windows is a band of three wood-frame sliding windows, set in the upper portion of the wall, and a solid wood door with fixed transom (**Figure 9**).

This façade terminates in overhanging roof eaves with exposed rafter tails, simple fascia, and metal gutters.



Figure 4. Primary (northwest) façade of 1451 Middlefield Road, view looking southeast.



Figure 5. Windows at the north wing of the primary façade, view looking northeast.



Figure 6. Two-story tower and primary entrance at primary façade, view looking southeast.



Figure 7. South wing of primary façade, view looking southwest.



Figure 8. Detail view of window bay at south wing of primary faced, view looking northeast.



Figure 9. Southernmost portion of the south wing at primary façade, view looking southeast.

Southwest Façade

The southwest façade faces Middlefield Avenue and a lawn with a large hedge (**Figure 10**). The west (left) portion of the façade, part of the northwest volume, contains no fenestration and terminates in an end gable (**Figure 11**). A small wood vent is located below the gable peak. At center is a connecting hyphen that features a side-gabled roof, which contains paired solid wood doors with

metal vents. Above this entrance is a band of five windows. The fixed wood-frame transom window above the entrance is flanked by metal-frame awning windows (**Figure 12**). The east (right) portion of the façade, part of the southeast volume, contains one wood door east of center accessed by a low concrete landing, and a wood vent below the gable peak. This portion of the façade terminates in an end gable, similar to the west portion of the façade (**Figure 13**). The entire southwest façade has a wide overhanging roof eave, which features exposed rafter tails and a simple fascia.



Figure 10. Southwest façade, view looking northeast across Middlefield Road.



Figure 11. Left portion of the southwest façade, view looking northeast.



Figure 12. Connecting hyphen, wood double doors, and band of windows, view looking northeast.



Figure 13. Right portion of the southwest façade, view looking northeast.

Rear (Southeast) Façade

The rear (southeast) façade faces the paved parking lot of the adjacent Walter Hayes Elementary School. This façade of the one-story southeast volume contains no fenestration (**Figure 14** and **Figure 15**). A continuous side gable extends the full width of the façade. The north portion of this volume is an addition that features a slightly taller gable roof. The gable peaks of the two roofs are parallel but off-set by a few feet (**Figure 16**). The shallow roof eave at the rear façade contains a simple stucco soffit and metal gutter. Several full-height vertical cracks were observed in the stucco.

The second story of the two-story tower contains two wood-frame double-hung windows on its southeast façade. Vents and ductwork on the roof are visible at this façade between the two windows (Figure 17).



Figure 14. Southeast façade, view looking northwest from the adjacent school parking lot.



Figure 15. Southeast façade, view looking northeast.



Figure 16. Taller gable-roof addition at the north portion of the façade, view looking northwest.



Figure 17. Southeast façade of the two-story tower, view looking northwest. Double-hung windows and mechanical equipment are just visible.

Northeast Façade

The northeast façade faces the outdoor zoo and exhibit area. This façade features the northwest and southeast volumes, as well as a recessed center portion and an L-shaped patio (Figure 18 and Figure 19). The northeast façade of the southeast (left) volume contains a single wood door and a small wood vent below the gable peak. The rafter tails on the northeast façade have been removed from the overhanging roof eave. The inner northwest façade of the southeast volume has a band of four wood-frame awning windows and three large fixed wood-frame windows further south (Figure 20 and Figure 21). An open trellis overhang extends from the shallow roof eave of the northwest façade. This volume's inner southwest façade contains one wood door (Figure 22).

The center portion of the northeast façade contains the entrance to the museum space and the enclosed courtyard. It features a five-bay bank of full-height wood-frame windows, flanked by single wood doors in the outer bays. A wood-slat bee enclosure projects from center. This portion of the façade terminates in a side-gabled roof, obscured by a wood trellis and partially open roof sheltering the patio (Figure 23-Figure 26).

The northwest (right) volume (the north wing from the primary facade) features several embedded display cases, set low in the wall to be at a child's eye level and with wide sills containing interpretive panels. The inner southeast facade contains three display cases and a solid wood door (**Figure 19 and Figure 26**). Display cases are wood frame with a metal lip along the upper edge. The northeast facade of this volume contains two display cases, a solid wood door accessed by a concrete ramp, and one fixed wood-frame window (**Figure 27 and Figure 28**).



Figure 18. Northeast facade of the Junior Museum, view looking southwest from the zoo area.



Figure 19. L-shaped patio at center of northeast facade, view looking southwest.



Figure 20. Awning windows at the inner northwest facade of the southeast volume, view looking southeast.



Figure 21. Wood windows at the inner northwest façade of the southeast volume further south, view looking southeast from patio.



Figure 22. Inner southwest façade of the southeast volume, view looking northeast from the L-shaped patio.



Figure 23. L-shaped patio, bee-enclosure, and bank of windows at center portion of northeast façade, view looking south.



Figure 24. Wood door left of bee enclosure, view looking southwest.



Figure 25. Windows and entrance at northeast façade, view looking northeast from museum interior.



Figure 26. Entrance to museum interior at northeast façade, view looking southwest.



Figure 27. Northeast façade of northwest volume, containing display cases, wood door (shown while open), and fixed wood window, view looking southwest.



Figure 28. Detail view of low display cases, view looking southwest.

INTERIOR

The central interior space of the museum is the enclosed courtyard at the center of the building (**Figure 29**). The perimeter of the enclosed courtyard has an angled plaster ceiling, while the center portion is raised and features exposed beams. Classrooms, storage, and staff rooms are located along the southeast and southwest sides of the building. The northwest portion of the interior contains an open exhibit room, lobby at the ground floor of the two-story tower, and staff room in the north wing. The second story contains offices.



Figure 29. Enclosed courtyard interior exhibit space, view looking southwest.

OUTDOOR ZOO

The outdoor zoo area is located northeast of the museum building (**Figure 30-Figure 33**). Surrounded by a wood-slat fence, the zoo is a collection of enclosures arranged around a pond. Landscaping surrounds the concrete-basin, which features an arched wooden bridge. The northwest side of the zoo contains four polygonal concrete enclosures. Three are capped with hipped conical roofs that are clad in wood shake, while the raccoon enclosure is covered by large wood beams. Some enclosures are clad with stucco while others are exposed rough-faced concrete masonry units (CMU). The enclosures contains both wood frame and metal frame windows. A raised concrete fountain and a concrete tortoise enclosure are located in the north portion of the zoo. The southeast side of the zoo contains a bobcat enclosure with a CMU viewing area and wood post fence, as well as a wood-framed and screened aviary.



Figure 30. Zoo area with pond and bridge at center, view looking north.



Figure 31. Enclosures at northwest side of the zoo, view looking west.



Figure 32. Raccoon enclosure and fountain at northern portion of zoo, view looking northwest.



Figure 33. Bobcat enclosure at southeast side of zoo, view looking northeast.

SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo is located in the Community Center neighborhood, which is bounded by Middlefield Road to the west, Channing Avenue to the north, Newell Road to the east, and Embarcadero Road to the south. The neighborhood is characterized by the large open space of Rinconada Park in the southern portion, and single-family residential buildings in the northern portion. The Walter Hayes Elementary School is adjacent to and southeast of the subject property (**Figure 34**). The Lucie Stern Community Center is located northwest across the surface parking lot and the Girl Scout Hall is northeast of the subject building (**Figure 35**). Construction of the Spanish Colonial-style Community Center was completed in 1940, and the log cabin-style Girl Scout Hall was opened several years before, in 1926. The remainder of Rinconada Park is open lawn and contains a children's playground (**Figure 35**). Residences across Middlefield Road are one- and two-story English Revival, Mission Revival, and contemporary styles, and were constructed from the mid-1920s through the 2000s (**Figure 37**).



Figure 34. Walter Hayes Elementary School, view looking northeast from Middlefield Road.



Figure 35. Rear façade of the Community Center, across parking lot from the Junior Museum and Zoo, view looking northwest.



Figure 36. Open space of Rinconada Park, view looking north.



Figure 37. Residence across Middlefield Road, view looking southwest from the museum.

IV. HISTORIC CONTEXT

PALO ALTO HISTORY

The earliest known settlement of the Palo Alto area was by the Ohlone people. The region was colonized by Gaspar de Portola in 1769 as part of Alto California. The Spanish and Mexican governments carved the area into large ranchos, and the land that would become Palo Alto belonged to several, including Rancho Corte Madera, Rancho Pastoria de las Borregas, Rancho Rincon de San Francisquito, and Rancho Riconada del Arroyo de San Francisquito.¹ The subject property at 1451 Middlefield Road was located on what was formerly Rancho Riconada del Arroyo de San Francisquito, and, at more than 2,200 acres, covered all of the original Palo Alto town site. The northern and eastern boundaries were distinguished by San Francisquito Creek, while the western boundary was located near El Camino Real and the southern boundary paralleled Embarcadero Road farther south.² These land grants were honored in the cession of California to the United States, but parcels were subdivided and sold throughout the nineteenth century.

The current city of Palo Alto contains the former township of Mayfield. In 1882, railroad magnate and California politician Leland Stanford purchased 1,000 acres adjacent to Mayfield to add to his larger estate. Stanford's vast holdings became known as the Palo Alto Stock Farm. The Stanfords' teenage son died in 1884, leading the couple to create a university in his honor. Contrary to contemporary institutions, the Stanfords wanted a co-educational and non-denominational university.³ On March 9, 1885, the university was founded through an endowment act by the California Assembly and Senate. Using the Stock Farm land, they established Stanford University

In 1886, Stanford went to Mayfield where he was interested in founding his university since the school needed a nearby service town to support its operations. However, the Stanfords required alcohol to be banned from the town because they believed that the university's mission and community would be negatively impacted by any nearby presence of alcohol.⁴ With 13 popular saloons then operating in Mayfield, the town eventually rejected the Stanfords' request. Seeking an alternative, Stanford decided in 1894 to found the town of Palo Alto with aid from his friend Timothy Hopkins of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Hopkins purchased and subdivided 740 acres of private land.⁵ Known as both the Hopkins Tract and University Park, it was bounded by the San Francisquito Creek to the north and the railroad tracks and Stanford University campus to the south (**Figure 38**). The subject property of 1451 Middlefield Road was located at the northern edge of the first platted portion of Palo Alto.

¹ "Palo Alto, California," Wikipedia, accessed December 22, 2014, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palo_Alto,_California#cite_note-12.

² Ward Winslow and the Palo Alto Historical Association, *Palo Alto: A Centennial History* (Palo Alto Historical Association: Palo Alto, CA, 1993), 16-17.

³ "History of Stanford," Stanford University, accessed December 22, 2014, <http://www.stanford.edu/about/history/>.

⁴ "A Flash History of Palo Alto," Quora, accessed December 22, 2014, <http://www.quora.com/How-is-the-historical-city-Mayfield-CA-related-to-Palo-Alto-CA>

⁵ "Comprehensive Plan," City of Palo Alto, section L-3.

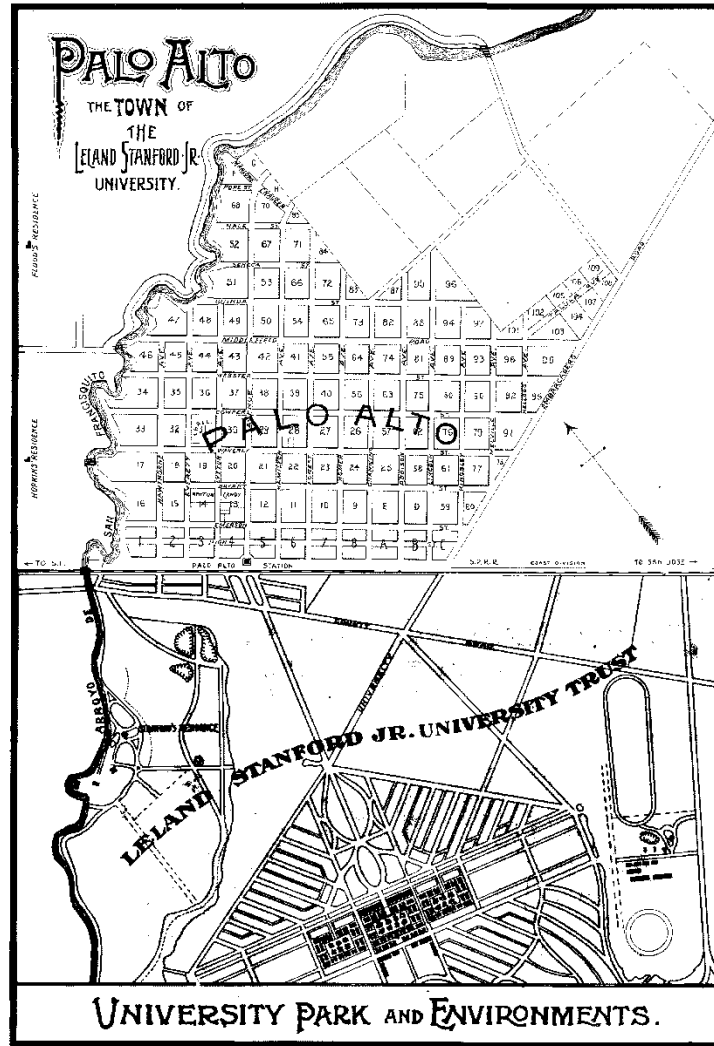


Figure 38. Map of the original town of Palo Alto.

Source: Branner Earth Sciences Library and Map Collections, Stanford University.

Palo Alto was a temperance town where no alcohol could be served. A new train stop was created along University Avenue and the new town flourished serving the university. Palo Alto grew to be much more prosperous than its southeastern neighbor Mayfield. Many people employed at Stanford University chose to move there, and it was considered the safer and more desirable alternative of the two towns.⁶ The residents were mostly middle and working class, with a pocket of University professors clustered in the neighborhood deemed Professorville. The development of a local streetcar in 1906 and the interurban railway to San Jose in 1910 facilitated access to jobs outside the city and to the University, encouraging more people to move to Palo Alto.⁷ In reaction to the decline of Mayfield, its residents voted to become a “dry” town in 1904, with sole exception of allowing the Mayfield Brewery to continue. However, the town was plagued by financial issues and could not compete with Palo Alto’s growth. In July 1925, Mayfield was officially annexed and consolidated into the city of Palo Alto.⁸

⁶ Matt Bowling, “The Meeting on the Corner: The Beginning of Mayfield’s End,” Palo Alto History.com, website accessed 11 June 2013 from: <http://www.paloaltohistory.com/the-beginning-of-mayfields-end.php>.

⁷ Michael Corbett and Denise Bradley, “Palo Alto Historic Survey Update: Final Survey Report,” Dames & Moore, 1-4.

⁸ “A Flash History of Palo Alto,” Quora.

Palo Alto was one of the first California cities to establish a City Planning Commission (CPC). In 1917, zoning matters were tasked to this advisory commission in order to control development and design. Regulations on signage, public landscaping and lighting, and appropriateness within residential areas fell under the purview of the CPC. From this early period, Palo Alto has maintained control over the built environment, which has resulted its relatively low density and consistent aesthetic. However, the zoning controls in the early part of the twentieth century played a part in the racial segregation of the city and the exclusion of certain groups from residential areas. Several neighborhoods were created with race covenants regarding home ownership and occupation, until this practice was ruled unconstitutional in 1948.⁹ The academic nature of the town prevented factories or other big industries from settling in Palo Alto, limiting the range of people who would populate the area.

Like the rest of the nation, Palo Alto suffered through the Great Depression in the 1930s and did not grow substantially. World War II brought an influx of military personnel and their families to the Peninsula. When the war ended, Palo Alto saw rapid growth. Many families who had been stationed on the Peninsula by the military or who worked in associated industries chose to stay, and the baby boom began. Palo Alto's population more than doubled from 16,774 in 1940 to 33,753 in 1953.¹⁰ Stanford University was also a steady attraction for residents and development in the city. The city center greatly expanded in the late 1940s and 1950s (**Figure 39**), gathering parcels that would house new offices and light industrial uses and lead the city away from its "college town" reputation.¹¹

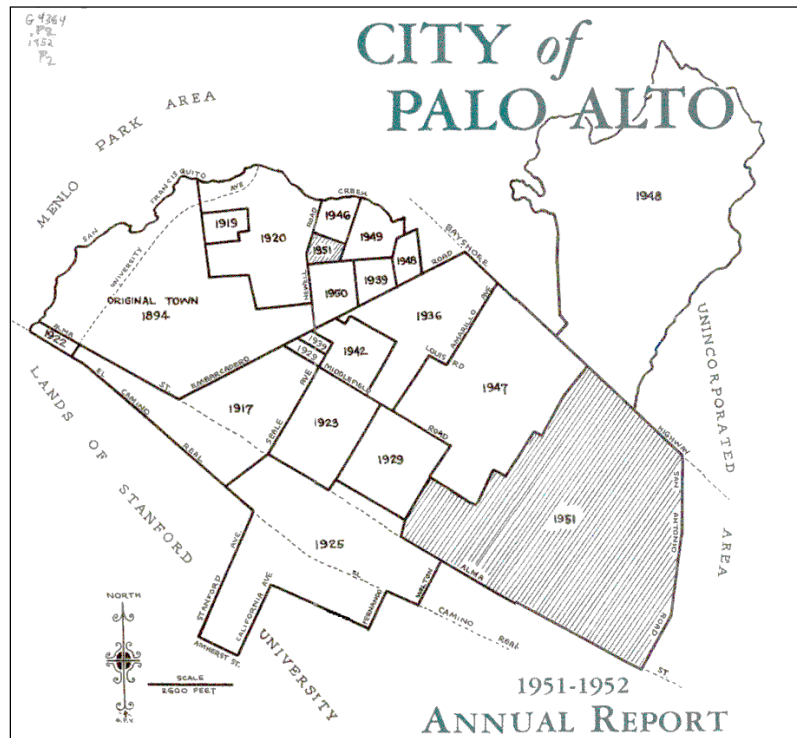


Figure 39. The expansion of Palo Alto from 1894 to 1952.

Source: Branner Earth Sciences Library and Map Collections, Stanford University.

⁹ Corbett and Bradley, "Palo Alto Historic Survey Update," 1-7.

¹⁰ "Depression, War, and the Population Boom," Palo Alto Medical Foundation- Sutter Health, website accessed 11 June 2013 from: <http://www.pamf.org/about/pamfhistory/depression.html>.

¹¹ "Comprehensive Plan," section L-4.

Palo Alto annexed a vast area of mostly undeveloped land between 1959 and 1968. This area, west of the Foothill Expressway, has remained protected open space. Small annexations continued into the 1970s, contributing to the discontinuous footprint of the city today. Palo Alto remains closely tied to Stanford University; it is the largest employer in the city. The technology industry dominates other sectors of business, as is the case with most cities within Silicon Valley. Palo Alto consciously maintains its high proportion of open space to development and the suburban feeling and scale of its architecture.

HISTORY OF JUNIOR MUSEUMS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, located at 1451 Middlefield Road, belongs to a nation-wide movement of children's museums focused on nature and science education that began at the turn of the 20th century. The development of museums for children and young adults is underrepresented in museum historiography, partially due to the fact that most institutions evolved out of local motivation. The inherently local nature of these museums thwarts developing a widespread understanding of how many developed and when they were founded. Differences in naming between "children's museums," "junior museums," and nature, science, and "discovery" centers geared towards children also contribute to the lack of a comprehensive history. Some histories draw strict distinctions between these types of institutions while others considered them part of the same movement.¹²

The first children's museum to open was the Brooklyn Children's Museum, established in 1899. Envisioned as a place where children could touch and play with the exhibits, the purpose of the museum was to engage children's imaginations and attention while learning about science and natural history. The museum occupied the historic Adams House, formerly used as a storage building for the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.¹³ The success of the Brooklyn Children's Museum led to the establishment of the Boston Children's Museum in 1913, Detroit Children's Museum in 1917, Children's Museum of Indianapolis in 1925, and several more in the 1920s and 1930s.¹⁴ The Palo Alto Junior Museum opened in 1934 during this early wave of museum popularity.

Having a children's museum separate from traditional museums is noted to be a "particularly American museological phenomenon."¹⁵ Many European and other American museums contented themselves with children's rooms, if they allowed children in at all. Despite this American trend, it was not a wide-spread practice for early institutions. In 1941, it is believed that only eight children's museums occupied their own facility – and not necessarily one constructed for their use.¹⁶ Early museums almost universally made use of large, empty homes and expanded or moved as necessary.

The ideology behind children's museums was not just to educate children, but to inspire them with an institution that they felt was created for them. They were not intruders or barred from

¹² Shannon O'Donnell, "Junior Grows Up: The Development of the Tallahassee Museum, 1957-1992" (Masters thesis, Florida State University, 2009), 6-7; Edward Porter Alexander and Mary Alexander, *Museums in Motion: An Introduction to the History and Fundamentals of Museums* (Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press, 2008), 15, 167; "Palo Alto Community Center: Junior Museum here one of 16 in the entire United States," *Palo Alto Times*, June 22, 1950, 22.

¹³ Edward Porter Alexander, *The Museum in America: Innovators and Pioneers* (Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 1997), 133.

¹⁴ "Timeline," Children's Museum of Indianapolis, accessed February 29, 2016, <http://thehistorychildrensmuseum.org/timeline>; "History," Boston Children's Museum, accessed February 29, 2016, <http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/about/history>.

¹⁵ Thomas Schlereth, quoted by Rebecca Stiles Onion, "Picturing Nature and Childhood at the American Museum of Natural History and the Brooklyn Children's Museum, 1899-1930," *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, 4.3 (2001), 450-451.

¹⁶ Ibid.

participating as they might be at a traditional museum. These institutions provided educational tools outside of regular classrooms during an era of heightened interest in childhood education reform and in the study and appreciation of nature. Museum collections consisted of a range of items and exhibits, including dioramas, fossils, taxidermy, wiring and radio systems, and anything that could be donated or collected from local sources or cast-offs from other museums. They also offered outdoor trips, art classes, lectures, and sometimes classes for adults. In this manner, children's museums fostered an active and continuing community that traditional adult museums lacked.

One figure that looms large in the history of children's museums is John Ripley Forbes. He is credited with establishing over 200 nature centers and science museums for children throughout the United States. From a young age, Forbes was influenced by his neighbor William T. Hornaday, noted naturalist and director of the Bronx Zoo. In the late 1930s, Forbes convinced the city to convert an abandoned mansion and opened his first museum, the Kansas City Museum of History and Science. In 1937, he established the William T. Hornaday Foundation to fund children's museums, which would later become the National Science for Youth Foundation.¹⁷ Forbes' museums had a strong outdoor education component, based on a belief in the benefits of exposing children to nature. During the 1950s, he lived in Sacramento and influenced several institutions throughout California. Forbes died in 2006, and his impact on the children's museum movement is only recently coming to light.¹⁸

During and after World War II, the youth museum movement gained momentum. Science education was placed in a national spotlight by the war, Cold War politics, and the space race. The United States government provided funds for museums, recognizing their education potential and widespread influence.¹⁹ By report of the Association of Children's Museums, by 1975 there were 38 children's museums in the United States. Based on the strict criteria by which the Association defines "children's museum," it is likely that far more youth museums were operating by that time. Other studies postulate that by the 1960s, over 40 children's museums, youth and junior museums were open.²⁰ Today, there are over 200 specifically children's museums in the United States, as well as hundreds of youth-centered education centers.²¹ The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo is not a member of the Association of Children's Museums, which officially lists 33 institutions in California.

PALO ALTO JUNIOR MUSEUM AND ZOO

In the midst of the Great Depression, Palo Alto resident Josephine O'Hara proposed that the community create a small museum to occupy the area's young children. A "leisure time" committee existed for adults, but there were hardly any activities or engagements for children. O'Hara had visited the children's museums in Brooklyn and Boston and decided that a similar institution would appeal to the Palo Alto community. In January 1934, O'Hara presented the idea of a children's museum to the community center commission and the public. A nine-member committee was formed to study the feasibility of such a scheme and to prepare a small exhibition for a spring fair.²²

¹⁷ Margalit Fox, "John Ripley Forbes, 93, Who Planted Many Nature Museums, is Dead," *New York Times*, September 5, 2006, accessed February 24, 2016.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/09/05/obituaries/05forbes.html>; "Mr. Appleseed," *Time*, December 21, 1953, 65-66.

¹⁸ Gary Ferguson, *Nature's Keeper: John Ripley Forbes and the Children's Nature Movement* (Helena, MT: Sweetgrass Books, 2012).

¹⁹ O'Donnell, "Junior Grows Up," 2009, 12.

²⁰ Herminia Weihsin Din, "An Investigation of Children's Museums in the United States – Their Past, Present, and Future: A Proposed Study," *Marilyn Zurmuehlin Working Papers in Art Education* 15 (1999): 63-69.

²¹ Association of Children's Museums online database, accessed February 29, 2016.
<http://www.childrensmuseums.org/childrens-museums/find-a-childrens-museum/>

²² Phyllis Mackall, "Palo Alto Junior Museum's 25th Year Observed," *Palo Alto Times*, July 16, 1959.

The idea caught immediate public support, and the first iteration of the museum was housed for four months in the art room of the Palo Alto Public Library. In July 1934, the Children's Museum (as it was known then) officially opened. Josephine O'Hara was the curator and 4,342 children visited the museum during its first year.²³ Inspired by the burgeoning children's museum movement on the East Coast, this institution appears to be the first museum of its kind west of the Mississippi River. In November 1934, the museum formalized its board of directors and established a membership program. The exhibits moved from the library into the basement of Sherman Grade School. Constantly growing, the main branch of the museums and its offices were established in the basement underneath a wing of the Community Center in 1937, while some exhibits remained in the school basement for two more years. During these early years the museum staff were partially supported by WPA (Works Progress Administration) and NYA (National Youth Administration) funds, and volunteers were key components of the museum's operation.

This early period from 1934-1940 saw significant growth in the volume of exhibits and items for the collection, as well as popularity among the community. Summer activities were held at the Addison School, outdoor activity and hikes were led by Josephine O'Hara, and temporary exhibits rotated through five local schools. Attendance continued to increase; by 1940, child visitors totaled 12,702.²⁴ Part of the motivation behind the museum was to imbue the children with initiative, interest, and inner resources that would equip them to deal with another economic depression and to be leaders in the future.

In 1941, a gift of \$10,000 was made by the local Margaret Frost Foundation to fund construction of a new facility for the museum. The City of Palo Alto offered a portion of land in Rinconada Park, and the museum found a permanent home. Contemporary reports claim that Palo Alto was the first children's museum to construct its own facility, and research has not uncovered any evidence to the contrary. In order to appeal to young patrons who objected to being called "children," the museum's name was officially changed to the Palo Alto Junior Museum.²⁵

Almost immediately after the building's opening, a \$12,000 grant was awarded to the Museum by the philanthropic Columbia Foundation of San Francisco to build a new science wing. Local newspapers constantly reported new activities of the museum, from new acquisitions or traveling exhibits of Native American baskets or African masks to the meetings of hobby groups that included art, ceramics, archery, woodworking, and stamp collection. During the summer vacation, the museum led at least four activities six days a week, not including the regular collection. The variety of programs offered by the Junior Museum seemed almost endless.²⁶ According to local press, as of June 1950 there were only sixteen children's museums in the United States.²⁷ Given the varied nature of youth museums, their focuses, and their names, it is difficult to know if this was indeed true, but research has not found evidence contradicting this claim.

²³ Gene Hammond, "Children's Museum: First in the United States," *Peninsula Life*, August 1948, 20.

²⁴ "Palo Alto Community Center: Junior Museum here one of 16 in the entire United States," *Palo Alto Times*, June 22, 1950, 22; "Children have place to ride their hobbies," *Palo Alto Times*, March 7, 1941; "Brief History of Formation and Development of the Children's Museum of Palo Alto, Inc.," August 1941, Palo Alto Historical Association.

²⁵ "Junior Museum building will open in October," *Palo Alto Times*, 1941, 8A; Gene Hammond, "Children's Museum: First in the United States," *Peninsula Life*, August 1948, 20; Palo Alto Junior Museum "Golden Anniversary" program, 1984.

²⁶ Verdella Rose, "Youngsters will get lots of sun riding Children's Museum hobbies," *Palo Alto Times*, June 18, 1941.

²⁷ "Palo Alto Community Center: Junior Museum here one of 16 in the entire United States," *Palo Alto Times*, June 22, 1950, 22.

The institution continued to grow in size and popularity, and in 1969, a remodeled and expanded museum opened. The adjoining zoo was opened, creating great excitement about a permanent collection of birds, snakes, raccoons, a bobcat, and even a golden eagle. During the mid-20th century, children's museums all over the country began having live animal collections, zoos, or partnering with wildlife preserves to foster a better appreciation and understanding for animals and the natural world. Economic difficulties for the City of Palo Alto in the 1980s threatened the zoo's continuation.²⁸ The local community rallied to save it, and today the zoo features more than 50 animal species.²⁹ The zoo remains an essential amusement for children today.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo continues to play an active role in the community and is beloved by generations of Palo Alto and San Francisco Bay Area residents. Its mission to educate and engage children in the fields of science, nature, and art remains strong, and over 150,000 people visit the museum each year.³⁰

CONSTRUCTION CHRONOLOGY

The chronology in the following table provides a list of alterations for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo based on available building permits:

Date	Permit #	Architect/Builder	Applicant	Work
1941	None available	Dole Ford Thompson; Aro & Okerman	City of Palo Alto	Original construction of the subject building
1948	84-913	None listed	City of Palo Alto	Front office remodel: create new lobby office and remove existing doors at back wall
4/12/1968	27421	GMI Construction	City of Palo Alto	Construction of addition and remodeling of museum building
6/21/1968	16853	Stanford Electric	City of Palo Alto	Electrical work
6/26/1968	11569	GMI Construction	City of Palo Alto	Installation of "electrical apparatus"
6/13/1975	4026	Menlo Oaks Plumbing	City of Palo Alto	Plumbing work
6/10/1983	83-450	None listed	City of Palo Alto	Remove interior pocket doors and replaced with hinge types
4/13/1987	87-758	City of Palo Alto Facilities Management	City of Palo Alto	Renovations to enclosures at northwest side of zoo, including new cut-faced block wall cladding and wire partitions

²⁸ Paul Gullixson, "A plan to save children's zoo in Palo Alto," *Palo Alto Times*, June 10, 1988, A-1.

²⁹ "About the Junior Museum and Zoo," City of Palo Alto, accessed February 20, 2016.
<http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/jmz/>

³⁰ Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, "The JMZ Initiative," 5.

Date	Permit #	Architect/Builder	Applicant	Work
7/6/1988	89-858	City of Palo Alto Facilities Management	City of Palo Alto	New trellis canopy at northeast façade entrance
1/17/1992	92-467	None listed	City of Palo Alto	Installation of door at raccoon cage
12/6/1994	94-3253	Ernie Erickson	City of Palo Alto	Install ADA hardware, accessible threshold and stair hardware
8/21/1996	96-2661	CSS Associates	City of Palo Alto	Install door hardware, landing, and ramp hardware (presumed to be at primary façade)
12/9/1996	96-3837	Hugo Estrada	City of Palo Alto	Install two water heaters and new electrical outlets
1996	96-3817	Z. Johnson	City of Palo Alto	Unspecified plumbing and electrical work
2/5/1999	99-315	Salas O'Brien Engineers	City of Palo Alto	Install new fluorescent strip lighting in exhibit hall (enclosed courtyard)
4/13/2001	01-0923	Hugo Estrada; Gidel & Rocal	City of Palo Alto	Conversion of storage room at southwest side of building into classroom; Some demolition of non-bearing interior walls, electrical work, and removal of kiln hood in ceramic kiln room
6/13/2002	02-1567	Lehrman Cameron Studio		Renovation of bat habitat: new CMU wall and new wood-frame viewing area
10/26/2009	09-2342	Devcon	Friends of Palo Alto Junior Museum	Partial demolition of CMU wall at aviary to build new bobcat enclosure, relocate aviary, relocate coastal stream display
10/26/2009	09-2343	Devcon	Friends of Palo Alto Junior Museum	Construction of new bobcat enclosure at southeast side of zoo

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building was originally designed and constructed in 1941 by architect Dole Ford Thompson and builders Aro & Okerman. No original building permit was available. The design was a symmetrical arrangement of two one-story wings extending north and south from a two-story tower (**Figures 40-42**). The central tower contained a foyer, offices, and storage, while the north wing held a workroom and the south wing contained the museum and exhibits. Each wing contained four sliding windows on the northwest façade. The ground floor entrance was recessed

below the second story of the tower, with large wood posts at the entrance and a fully glazed double wood with no sidelights. Two windows flanked the entrance.³¹

A new science building (the current southeast volume) was completed in 1943 as a separate gable-roofed, wood-frame volume southeast of the main building. The buildings were connected by a patio for outdoor activities. In 1944, a glass-enclosed nature studio was constructed between the northwest and southeast volumes, creating a U-shaped floorplan (**Figure 43**). In 1955, two rooms were added to the southeast volume.³² In 1956, an addition by architect Harold Ahnfeldt extended the south wing of the main building towards Middlefield Road. Today, the south wing of the primary façade has been extended by approximately twice its original length. Throughout the 1950s several other changes occurred to reconfigure the connection of the different volumes and enclose the courtyard (**Figure 44**).³³

Between 1968 and 1969, the museum underwent a comprehensive remodeling and expansion. Classroom and workspaces, including a kiln room, were remodeled. Roof repairs were also completed. The outdoor zoo was added as part of the institution's expansion. The zoo has remained largely unchanged except for the material and shape of the some of the enclosures. The expansion was completed by architect Kal H. Porter and GMI Construction. In July 1968, the cast iron weather vane with a flying eagle, which had been donated by a community member at the time of the building's opening, was stolen. The new building formally opened on February 1, 1969.

Based on physical observation of the property, several alterations occurred at unknown dates. The four windows at the north wing of the primary façade were replaced with a band of three slider windows. The four windows at the original south wing of the façade were replaced with an eight-bay assembly of almost full-height windows and a door. The original recessed entrance at the primary façade was removed and the ground level wall brought forward to be even with the façade planes of the one-story wings. Based on historic photographs, these changes occurred prior to 1980 and were likely part of the 1968-69 renovation (**Figure 45**).

A wood trellis was added at the northeast entrance to the zoo and the L-shaped patio was designed in the spring of 1989 by Page Sanders and the California Landscape Contractors Association. Minor improvements to the interior and site have recently occurred, such as interior partition reconfigurations, new enclosures in the zoo, and electrical and mechanical work.

³¹ Description of the original building is based upon contemporary newspaper reports and historic photographs; "Junior Museum building will open in October," *Palo Alto Times*, 1941, 8A.

³² "Junior Museum addition favored," *Palo Alto Times*, February 14, 1955; Page & Turnbull, *Historical Assessment of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo*, April 7, 2004.

³³ Page & Turnbull, 2004.



Figure 40. Illustration of the new Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building in 1941, published in the *Palo Alto Times*. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.



Figure 41. A series of construction photos for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.



Figure 42. Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building in 1948.
Source: Peninsula Life magazine, 1948 via Palo Alto Historical Association.

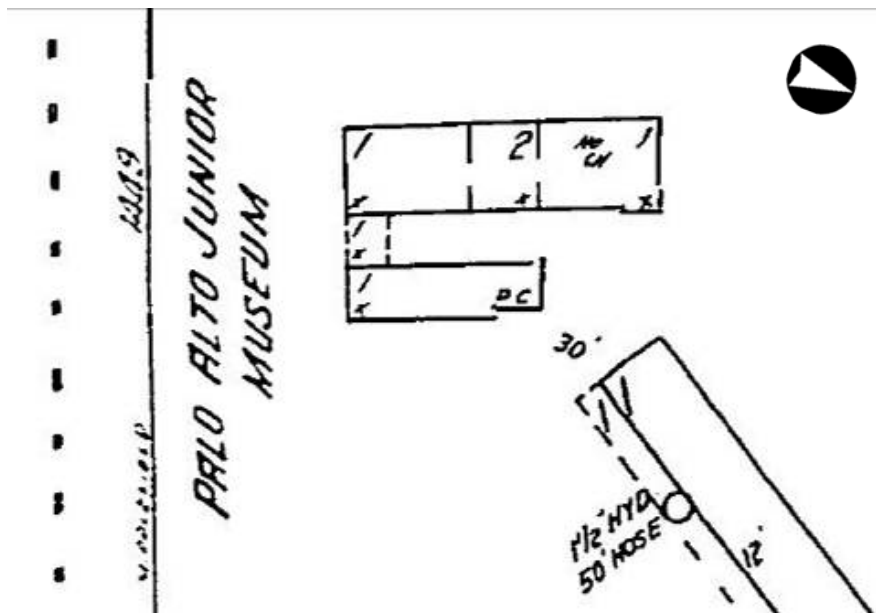


Figure 43. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1949.
Source: San Francisco Public Library Digital Sanborn Collection.

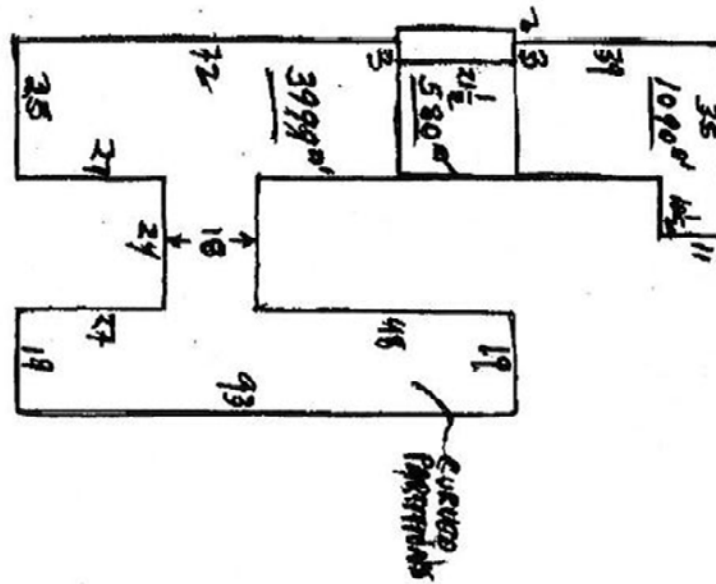


Figure 44. Sketch of building floorplan from undated county assessment form, likely circa late 1950s, prior to the enclosure of the central courtyard.
Source: City of Palo Alto Community Development Center.



Figure 45. Primary façade of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building in 1980. The recessed entrance has been filled in and the full-height windows have replaced the band of four sliding windows at center. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.

OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS

The subject building was constructed for the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo and has been continually occupied since 1941. The City of Palo Alto assumed ownership of the building in 1943 from an association of volunteers. The museum is currently owned and operated by the City of Palo Alto with support by the non-profit organization, Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo.

ORIGINAL ARCHITECT & BUILDER

The original Palo Alto Junior Museum building was designed by Dole Ford Thompson and constructed by Aro & Okerman. Thompson received his architecture degree from the University of Michigan in 1927. He is known to have designed at least eleven buildings in Palo Alto, where he was based. Most of his projects appear to be residences, but he also designed several small facilities buildings at Stanford University.³⁴ Research did not uncover further examples of his work. Contractors Aro & Okerman also worked primarily in Palo Alto constructing residences and additions, as well as several fire stations in the 1930s through 1950s.³⁵

³⁴ Page & Turnbull, *Historical Assessment*, 2004, 4; “New Janitor’s Quarters Are Nearing Completion,” *The Stanford Daily*, August 15, 1935, 3.

³⁵ “Architects & Builders,” Palo Alto Stanford Heritage, accessed February 26, 2016. <http://www.pastheritage.org/ArchBuild.html>; Amy French, “Historic Resources Board Staff Report: 2330

Kal H. Porter, the architect of the 1968-69 renovation, was a San Jose-based architect who primarily designed school facilities. He worked throughout Santa Clara County, including the New Inverness School in Cupertino, which feature all moveable walls, and schools for the Jefferson School District in Daly City. He founded the firm Porter, Jensen, Hansen, Manzagol Architects (now PJHM Architects) and Kal Porter, AIA and Associates, which became PSWC Group.³⁶

Bryant,” City of Palo Alto, accessed February 26, 2016, http://www.conlon.org/Schwartz-Conlon/remodeling/planning/historic_merit/HRB_staff_report.PDF.

³⁶ Past Consultants, *San Jose Modernism Historic Context Statement*, June 2009, 142.

V. EVALUATION

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES & CALIFORNIA REGISTER OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's most comprehensive inventory of historic resources. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service and includes buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at the national, state, or local level. Typically, resources over fifty years of age are eligible for listing in the National Register if they meet any one of the four criteria of significance and if they sufficiently retain historic integrity. However, resources under fifty years of age can be determined eligible if it can be demonstrated that they are of "exceptional importance," or if they are contributors to a potential historic district. National Register criteria are defined in depth in *National Register Bulletin Number 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. There are four basic criteria under which a structure, site, building, district, or object can be considered eligible for listing in the National Register.

- *Criterion A (Event)*: Properties associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- *Criterion B (Person)*: Properties associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- *Criterion C (Design/Construction)*: Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; and
- *Criterion D (Information Potential)*: Properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is an inventory of significant architectural, archaeological, and historical resources in the State of California. Resources can be listed in the California Register through a number of methods. State Historical Landmarks and National Register-listed properties are automatically listed in the California Register. Properties can also be nominated to the California Register by local governments, private organizations, or citizens. The California Register of Historical Resources follows nearly identical guidelines to those used by the National Register, but identifies the Criteria for Evaluation numerically.

In order for a property to be eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register, it must be found significant under one or more of the following criteria.

- *Criterion 1 (Events)*: Resources that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.
- *Criterion 2 (Persons)*: Resources that are associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.

- *Criterion 3 (Architecture)*: Resources that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values.
- *Criterion 4 (Information Potential)*: Resources or sites that have yielded or have the potential to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

The following section examines the eligibility of the property at 1451 Middlefield Road, containing the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, for listing in the National Register and California Register.

Criterion A / 1 (Events)

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building at 1451 Middlefield Road appears to be individually significant under California Register Criterion 1 as a resource associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of local or regional history. The institution of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo is associated with the early development of children's museums in the western United States. Founded in 1934, the Palo Alto Junior Museum appears to be the first children's museum in the western United States. The museum's founder Josephine O'Hara was directly inspired by the pioneering institutions in Brooklyn and Boston, and brought those ideas to Palo Alto. However, the building at 1451 Middlefield Road was not constructed at this time and was not part of the museum's original founding.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum had several homes during the period 1934-1941, in keeping with the larger pattern of the early children's museums. Typically, museums were housed in empty historic homes or temporary locations, moving and expanding to accommodate institutional growth. Only in the 1960s and 1970s did most institutions begin to construct their own facilities. The building at 1451 Middlefield Road was noted in contemporary newspapers as being the first building in the West to be constructed to serve as a children's museum, made possible by a generous local foundation.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo has become culturally valuable in Palo Alto as an established institution with a clear mission and widespread community support. The significance of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo institution lies in its association within the ideological development of children's museums, which was physically represented by the relatively early construction of the building at 1451 Middlefield Road in 1941. Thus, the period of significance under Criterion 1 is 1941.

The building does not appear to rise to a level of significance for association with broad patterns of national history as to be eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A.

Criterion B / 2 (Persons)

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building at 1451 Middlefield Road does not appear to have been associated with persons important to the history of Palo Alto or the State of California to the extent that the property would be considered individually eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register under Criterion B/2 (Persons). The founder of the museum, Josephine O'Hara, is a notable figure in the history of the institution and as an early proponent of the values proposed by children's museums. However, she does not appear to have participated further in the nation-wide or statewide museum movement, and therefore does not rise to an individual level of significance such that the building would be eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register under Criterion B/2.

Criterion C / 3 (Architecture/Design)

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building at 1451 Middlefield Road does not appear to be individually significant under Criterion C/3 (Architecture/Design). The original architect Dole Ford Thompson

and the builders Aro & Okerman were active in Palo Alto but are not prolific or sufficiently known enough to determine that the subject building is the work of a master. The building is designed in a vernacular Ranch style. Although the simplicity of the design complements its use and its setting within the park, it does not possess high artistic value, nor is it a distinctive representation of a style. For these reasons, 1451 Middlefield Road does not appear to be eligible for listing in the National Register or California Register under Criterion C/3.

Criterion D / 4 (Information Potential)

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building at 1451 Middlefield Road was not evaluated for significance under Criterion D/4 (Information Potential). Criterion D/4 generally applies to the potential for archaeological information to be uncovered at the site, which is beyond the scope of this report.

INTEGRITY

In order to qualify for listing in the National Register or the California Register, a property must possess significance under one of the aforementioned criteria and have historic integrity. Integrity is defined as “the authenticity of an historical resource’s physical identity by the survival of certain characteristics that existed during the resource’s period of significance,” or more simply defined as “the ability of a property to convey its significance.”³⁷ The process of determining integrity is similar for both the National Register and the California Register. The same seven variables or aspects that define integrity—location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association—are used to evaluate a resource’s eligibility for listing in the National Register and the California Register. According to the *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, these seven characteristics are defined as follows:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed.

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plans, space, structure, and style of the property.

Setting addresses the physical environment of the historic property inclusive of the landscape and spatial relationships of the building(s).

Materials refer to the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern of configuration to form the historic property.

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history.

Feeling is the property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building at 1451 Middlefield Road remains in the same location in which it was constructed, so the building retains integrity of location. The use of the building has

³⁷ California Office of Historic Preservation, *Technical Assistance Series No. 7: How to Nominate a Resource to the California Register of Historical Resources* (Sacramento, CA: California Office of State Publishing, 4 September 2001), p. 11; National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1997), p. 44.

not changed and the institution that it houses remains as important today as when it was founded. Therefore, the building retains integrity of association and feeling. Rinconada Park and the surrounding environment have changed little, but the nearby public school, the large surface parking lot, and the addition of the outdoor zoo encroach upon the original setting of the building. For this reason, the building does not retain integrity of setting.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum building has undergone extensive changes during its history. The original building comprised the two-story tower and two symmetrical one-story wings. Successive additions have occurred to the site, including the construction of a new wing to the southeast, connecting hyphens built between the two volumes, and new volumes constructed in the northeast portion of the building. The enclosure of the courtyard at center has obscured the sense of the building's original scale and linear volumes. The original southern wing has been extended to almost twice the original length, interrupting the symmetry of the original design. The recessed entryway has been replaced, as have the windows at the primary façade. The cumulative impact of these changes has compromised the building's integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. For these reasons, the building does not retain historic integrity.

SUMMARY OF EVALUATION

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo at 1451 Middlefield Road was found significant under California Register Criterion 1 for its association with the ideological development of children's museums, which was physically represented by the relatively early construction of the building at 1451 Middlefield Road in 1941. However, the building has sustained a number of alterations and additions which obscure its original appearance and compromise its integrity. As both significance and integrity are required for eligibility for listing in the California Register., the alterations render the building ineligible.

VII. CONCLUSION

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building was originally constructed in 1941 by local architect Dole Ford Thompson. The building housed the Children's Museum (now the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo), an institution founded in 1934 to provide education and entertainment for youth in Palo Alto. As an early part of the children's museum movement, the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo embraced tenants established by the first children's museum on the East Coast and was the first institution of its kind west of the Mississippi River. In order to appeal to young patrons who objected to being called "children," the museum's name was officially changed to the Palo Alto Junior Museum. It has become an important civic and cultural institution for the Palo Alto community.

The Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo at 1451 Middlefield Road was found significant under California Register Criterion 1 for its association with the ideological development of children's museums, which was physically represented by the relatively early construction of the building at 1451 Middlefield Road in 1941. However, the building has sustained a number of alterations and additions which obscure its original appearance and compromise its integrity. As both significance and integrity are required for eligibility for listing in the California Register., the alterations render the building ineligible.

For these reasons, the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo building at 1451 Middlefield Road does not qualify as a historic resource for the purposes of review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

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