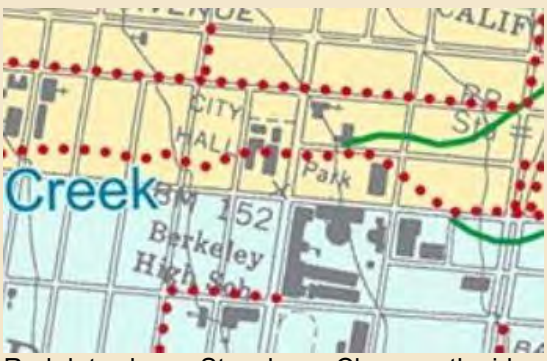


CHAPTER **6**

Park Description, Character-Defining Features & Conditions Matrix



Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
1 Natural Systems and Features		
1	Strawberry Creek running under Park	Culverted portion of Strawberry Creek runs along and under the north edge of the park
2 Topography		
2	Gentle Slope across the site from east to west	Slope runs generally east to west with the lowest portion of the park being in the southwest approximately 16-feet below the highest portion of the park at the northeast corner, approximately 550 feet away.

<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>	
n/a	No known	No	 <p>Red dots shown Strawberry Ck on north side of "Park"</p>	
n/a	Good	Yes		




Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
3 Spatial Organization		
3	Park Plan bilateral symmetry east-west across the block	Bilateral symmetry of park design including paths, fountain, plantings, 2180 Milvia Street building and small-scaled features across the block with the center line running in an east-west direction
4	Spatial Volume of the Park extends beyond the Physical Footprint of the Park	<p>The spatial volume that is centered in the large circular lawn is edged by vertical elements including buildings and tall vegetation. Where edge definition by trees is not strong the edges of the spatial volume of the park is defined by a vertical element across the street. The effective edges to the spatial volume of the park are defined by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To the east: the east-facing façade (or west façade) of the 2180 Milvia Street building 2. To the south: the Berkeley Community Theater with layering provided by canopies across street and park trees 3. To the west: by the trees in front of City Hall and the building of City Hall itself 4. To the north: the buildings across Center Street form the limit to the spatial volume.
5	Four Primary Spaces within the Park	Laid out along the east-west centerline are the four primary spaces including the Giant Sequoia Terrace (foreground), Fountain Terrace, Circular Lawn, and the north-south oriented Western Esplanade.

	<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
vest	1942	Fair to Good	Yes	
e to ve ng of	1942	Good	Yes	
ed	1942	Good	Yes	




Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
4 Constructed Water Features		
6	Central Fountain	<p>The cast-in-place concrete fountain measuring approximately 50-feet in diameter consists of an outer basin with board-form finished wall up to seat-wall height, this contains a broad reflecting pond as the base level of the fountain. Within the reflecting pond are three terrace levels, with the lower of the three being a visible horizontal board-form wall to approximately 10 feet high having a diameter of 25-feet. Both the two outer board-formed walls have broad flat tops. The two upper tiers have curved lips for water to cascade over. The floor of each tier is monolithic concrete. The top tier is sealed with plywood. The fountain does not currently function.</p>
7	Hatch lid to mechanical vault for Central Fountain	<p>Wood hatch lid to underground concrete vault once and possibly still containing fountain equipment. It is located to the northeast of the fountain terrace immediately outside the terrace perimeter wall.</p>
8	Side wall-fountains	<p>Remnants of two semi-circular bowl-shaped side fountains are located attached to the north and south perimeter wall defining the fountain terrace. Lying on the outward-facing side of the fountain terrace wall, the ground-level basin is paved with concrete at the north side with a bench mounted on top. On the south side there is a semicircular plywood panel covering the remains of the ground-level basin. The fountain terrace perimeter wall steps up marking the location of the site fountains. The fountains are believed to have never been put into operation. The walls of the two side wall-fountains were rebuilt when the Peace Wall was created starting in 1988 until the mid 1990s. The size and position of the walls is understood to be similar to originals.</p> <p>Historically, the two side wall-fountains each faced a roughly triangular lawn flanked by planting. These lawns were positioned to make the wall-fountains focal elements.</p>

	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
of ed y 2- at s	1942	Concrete basins – Good Mechanical system – unknown assumed poor	Yes	
ace	1942	Unknown	Yes	
n he hat e ion. ting the	1942	Poor	No due to poor integrity	



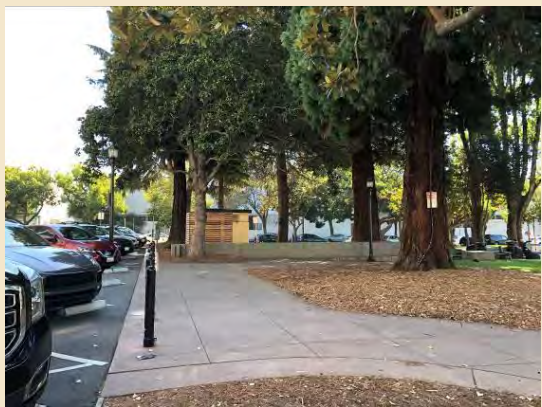
Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
5 Circulation		
9	Park Paths parallel with Center Street and Allston Way	Concrete paths within the park are pink concrete. Six-foot wide park paths run parallel with streets to the north and south offset from the back of sidewalk by 25-feet.
10	Sidewalks on Center Street, Allston Way, and Martin Luther King Jr. Way	Sidewalks are plain gray concrete. Originally three-feet in width, in most places they have been widened and added to in order to provide an accessible route past street-lights and parking meters.
11	Fountain Terrace	Sandstone random paving with mortared joints extends around the central fountain out to the perimeter wall of the terrace.

	<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
the	1942	Good	Yes	
been	1942	Good	Yes	
ne	1949	Fair to Good	Yes	

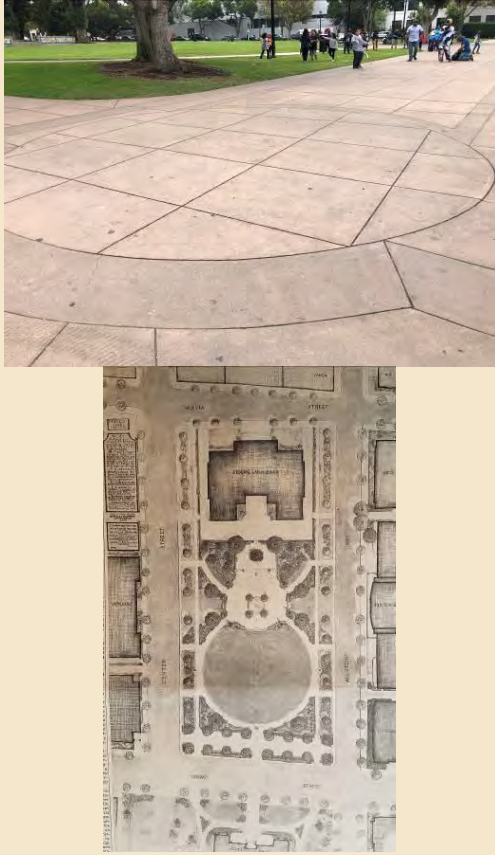

Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
5 Circulation		
12	Stairs emanating from Fountain Terrace – west side	<p>Cast-in-place concrete stairs with radiused ends returning to the terrace perimeter wall on the west side of the terrace. Historically there was no opening in the wall in this location. Stairs were likely added when the Peace Wall was constructed.</p> <p>("Berkeley Voice" article dated October 24, 1984 shows a picture taken in 1978 without these stairs)</p>
13	Stairs emanating from Fountain Terrace – east side	<p>Cast-in-place concrete stairs on the east side of the terrace have a large-radius curve. According to the 1999 Report of the Summary of Historical Significance, these stairs originally had flagstone treads, now removed. At the ends of the stairs they step back and up with squared ends as they meet a stout plinth. The stairs and stout plinth is original to the park design.</p> <p>Historically stairs were also north and south of these large-radius curved stairs; these were replaced with sloped walks in 2006.</p>
14	Concrete paving at Giant Sequoia Terrace	<p>Extending east from the Fountain Terrace concrete paving, installed in 2006, provides a pair of 15-foot wide paths, one on the north side the other on the south side of the giant sequoia planting bed. The two paths come together to the east of the giant sequoia with paving extending up to the asphalt-paved parking area. The slopes on these two side paths replaced stairs in order to offer an accessible route to the upper terrace around the giant sequoia.</p> <p>The concrete is pink in color; scoring is a square grid.</p>

	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
the se	After 1978	Good	No	
ally	1942 / 2006	Good	Yes	
ir of ed	2006	Good	No	

Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
5 Circulation		
15	Esplanade at west end of Park	<p>A 25-foot wide esplanade made of pink-colored concrete, was installed in 2006, as part of the park improvements. Circular scoring patterns at the north and south ends, with a larger circle in the center of the esplanade respect the park's bilateral symmetry. The remainder of the scoring is a square grid.</p> <p>In 1940, this area was designed to provide an area of sheltered seating partially shaded and screened with high hedges (see representative images for 1940 concept plan). It remained that way until 1948 when the southern half was converted to a shuffle board court and in 1950 when the northern half of the esplanade was converted to a children's play area.</p>
16	Resilient Safety Surfacing in Playground	<p>A paving pattern of terracotta, grey and green surfaces of the play areas including the eastern area with a swing and the larger western play enclosure with climbing play elements. Both parts of the play area have had their resilient rubberized play surfacing patched with rubberized material that is black in color.</p>


	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
he le in ring d this	2006	Good	No	 <p>The top image is a photograph of a large, paved plaza area with a grid pattern of light-colored concrete slabs. In the background, there are trees and people walking. The bottom image is an architectural site plan or map showing a similar grid layout with a central circular area and various labeled streets and buildings.</p>
ern	2006	Good	No	 <p>A photograph showing a paved path or walkway. The path is dark grey or black, and there are several fallen yellow leaves scattered on it. To the right of the path is a reddish-brown surface, possibly mulch or another type of ground cover.</p>


Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
5 Circulation		
17	Asphalt Paving at parking area	<p>An asphalt-paved parking area with concrete wheel-stops, is located east of the concrete terrace with the giant sequoia.</p> <p>Land on the west side of the Farm Credit Building was used as a parking area as early as 1938. The City relocated its offices to this building in 1977. It is not entirely clear if this space was used consistently as a parking area both before and after the city occupied the building though this appears to be the case. The benefit that parking offers to the park is that it provides a spatial buffer. The eastern edge of the park has, however, been defined by tall elements since the founding of the park including both the Farm Credit Building which predates the park and tall trees that have filled in over time.</p> <p>In 2006 the existing area of asphalt was resurfaced.</p>

Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park




<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
6 Vegetation		
18	Circular Lawn	<p>The large expanse of space at the western portion of the park measures approximately an acre and a third in area. Most of this is covered with lawn and being low it creates an opportunity for clear sight lines, a place for children to run and play, civic events, social gatherings, demonstrations and fairs.</p> <p>Historically it was used in this fashion for civic uses.</p>

	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
ce g ides ark,	2006	Good	No	

	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
acre y for	1942	Good	Yes	



Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
6 Vegetation		
19	Composition of Large Columnar Trees as Space Defining Elements at east end of Park	As a collection of trees placed in a manner to define a space, the Lombardy poplars (<i>Populus nigra</i> var. <i>Italica</i>) form two arcs of trees around the Fountain Terrace. A giant sequoia tree immediately to their east, lies on the center line between the arcs but not crowded so that its outline is evident. The composition is reinforced with an informal but substantial backdrop of tall coniferous trees including redwoods and Atlas cedars. Amongst the redwoods and poplars and reinforcing the density of the backdrop are evergreen American holly trees (<i>Ilex opaca</i>).
20	Giant Sequoia	The giant sequoia, as an individual tree with symmetrical pyramidal form and dark foliage color, performs the duty of an anchor of the centerline of the park. Some years it is decorated as a living Christmas tree for the City of Berkeley.. This is one of the species from the original plant list for the park.
21	Lombardy Poplars	Eight Lombardy poplars form two arcs that encircle the Fountain Terrace. There are four on the north and four on the south side, leaving the east-west center-line open. The trees are modestly taller than the 2180 Milvia Street building. At their bases, new paving has been installed possibly because poplars are prone to heaving pavement. They also have a reputation for invading pipes and may have contributed to the disfunction of the fountain's recirculation system. The Lombardy poplars range in size from 32-inch DBH to 71-inch DBH and are part of the original planting design of the park. This is one of the species from the original plant list for the park.

	<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
us s of ars,).	1942	Fair to Good	Yes	
ed	1942	Good	Yes	
n the H	1942	Fair to Good	Yes	




Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
6 Vegetation		
22	Redwoods	Numerous redwoods (<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>) contribute to the massive stand of tall, dark-foliaged conifers that provide the backdrop for the light-colored deciduous Lombardy poplar that ring the Fountain Terrace. They range in size from 5-inches DBH to 67-inch DBH. This is one of the species from the original plant list for the park.
23	Atlas Cedar	Two Atlas cedars (<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>) contribute their massive size to the evergreen backdrop behind the Lombardy poplars of which the redwoods comprise the bulk. They have 25-inch to 27-inch DBHs; one each anchors the northeast corner and the southeast corner of the evergreen mass. This is one of the species from the original plant list for the park.
24	American Holly	Five trees are located on each side of the centerline of the park in the mass of trees north and south of the terrace with the giant sequoia, for a total of ten trees. They measure four to six inches DBH. They are considered character-defining on account of their dark evergreen qualities and contribution to the mass of trees in this location.

	<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
s	1942 and ongoing	Good	Yes	
p and	1942	Good	Yes	
and	~1942	Fair	Yes	




Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
6 Vegetation		
25	Incense Cedar	Two incense cedar trees (<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>) remain in the park at its west end. Both have experienced health or pruning setbacks. They measure 28" and 29" DBH. This is one of the species from the original plant list for the park.
26	Camphor Trees	Four camphor trees (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>) remain in the park located roughly at the four corners of the park. The smallest is 14-inches diameter at breast height (DBH), the largest 31-inches DBH. Most are failing, some have significant dieback. These were an original species to the park and were more numerous in the park in the past.
27	Southern Magnolia	Southern magnolias (<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>) are both within the park and in front (east) of the 2180 Milvia Street building. Over the recent decades, they appear to have been used as a replacement planting for other species that have failed, including camphor trees.

	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
ave	1942	Fair	Yes	
ur is	1942	Poor	Yes	
e	Unknown and continuing	Fair to Good	No	




Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
6 Vegetation		
28	Memorial Strawberry Trees	Two strawberry trees (<i>Arbutus unedo</i> 'Marina') are located at the southwest corner of the park along with a plaque identifying that the trees were planted in memory of the loss of life of young Americans and Irish visitors in a balcony collapse in 2015.
29	Hedge – Indian Hawthorn	Indian Hawthorn (<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i>) forms an informal hedge along the frontage of Martin Luther King Jr. Way lies between the sidewalk and Western Esplanade. The southern half of the frontage is robustly covered in the shrub while the northern half has few or stunted shrubs and is largely covered with wood mulch. In the original 1940 design, tall hedges were located in this position to provide a screen for Grove Street Esplanade.
30	Hedge – Privot	An 8 to 10-foot high shrubbery of privot (<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>) envelopes the porta-potty at the south-west corner of the park.

	<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
ark	2018	Good	No	
n of bs the	2006	Fair	No	
e	2006 or later	Good	No	




Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
7 Buildings & Structures		
31	Concrete Utility Room, former Restroom	<p>Located in the south-east corner of the park in the grove of evergreen trees there is a concrete former-restroom building with a footprint of approximately 12-feet by 12-feet. The walls are horizontal board-form concrete with a two-foot high band below the eave-line of vertically scalloped concrete. Each side has inset louvers, the door faces south. The flat roof and doors are painted dark green while the rest of the structure is painted a buttery cream color. A 1941 photo of the park during construction shows this southern restroom structure with a six-foot high privacy baffle wall on the south side protecting the bathroom door.</p>
32	Wood Fencing	<p>Eight-foot high wood slat fencing screens and encloses the two porta potties in the park, one near the southwest corner of the park, the other at the southeast corner. The fencing is constructed of 1x4 fir slats with 1-inch gaps between the boards. The fencing is located on three sides of the plastic porta-potties.</p>
33	Peace Wall Sculpture	<p>Historically there was a perimeter wall surrounding the Fountain Terrace comprised of five sections. The first west of the fountain without a stair opening in the middle; the second on south side of the fountain and the third on the north side of the fountain; the fourth and fifth sections to the northeast and southeast of the fountain respectively. According to the Landmark Application, the north and south walls were rebuilt in 1988 and 1989 but are of approximately similar proportions as the original wall. The significant change in the rebuilding of the walls appears to have been creation of a new opening on the centerline of the park in the large wall facing west. The original wall exhibited a visible horizontal board form finish.</p> <p>The perimeter wall defines the edge of the terrace and has a mosaic of individually decorated tiles on both vertical faces on all wall segments surrounding the fountain except the fourth and fifth segments described above, i.e. the two eastern walls nearest the giant sequoia. Referred to as the Peace Wall Sculpture, the tile surfacing was designated in the Landmark Report as having importance in its own right, to the City.</p>

	<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
ete or a	1941	Fair to Good	Yes	
e	~2012	Good	No	
the ng n ed and rred s	1988 until the mid-1990s	Good	<p>Most of the present wall is not original but occupies the same location as the original wall.</p> <p>Presence of a wall around the Fountain Terrace is character-defining</p>	

Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
7 Buildings & Structures		
34	Concrete Walls North and south of the Giant Sequoia terrace	Two pairs of concrete piers define the thresholds of the two paths that lead east from the Fountain Terrace. These and the horizontal board-form wall are original to the park. The walls currently painted olive green were originally unpainted concrete.
35	Concrete Stairs at Entry to 2180 Milvia Street Building	Stairs, which appear to be original to the building located at 2180 Milvia Street, are concrete with white-painted nose markings. Handrails at the sides are galvanized pipe rail attached to the side walls; they appear to be a later addition. Two sets of handrails mid-stair have square hollow section posts and flat handrails and appear to be contemporaneous with the stairs.
36	Concrete Ramp at Entry to 2180 Milvia Street Building	On the north side of the stairs a concrete switchback ramp has been added, for a total ramp length of 120lf. Galvanized pipe rails are integrated to the guardrail except where there is a concrete sidewall, where the handrail is wall-mounted. The guard rail is galvanized steel with vertical pickets and a double horizontal rail at the top. This was part of the rehabilitation work completed by ELS Architecture in 2000.

	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
alls	1942	Good	Yes	
e o re	1937	Good	Yes	
o th	2000	Good	No	



Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
7 Buildings & Structures		
37	Concrete Walls at the Western Esplanade	Massive concrete walls and seating steps that run parallel with Martin Luther King Jr. Way to the western edge of the esplanade and park. Walls have steel bull-nosed edges. The alignment along the western edge has an expanded area of paving located on the centerline of the park creating a focal point at the flagpole.
38	Chain-link Fencing	Three-foot high chainlink fencing encloses the western-most of the two parts of the children's play area. There are three sets of double gates in the fence.
39	Bike Enclosure on Center Street side of Farm Credit Building	Galvanized metal picket fencing, approximately six-feet tall encloses a bicycle corral containing ten 'U' racks on a concrete pad. Immediately adjacent, the same fencing encloses a large above-ground utility box. The entire enclosure, for bicycles and utilities, measures approximately 60-feet long and is located behind the sidewalk.

	<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
form of	2006	Good	No	
's	2006	Good	No	
ning	ND	Good	No	



Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
7 Buildings & Structures		
40	Western part of Children's Play Area	A children's play area for tots and young children is located between the Fountain Terrace Center Street. Surfacing under play elements is resilient safety surfacing. Play elements include a climbing boulder with handholds, three concrete 'drums', four concrete column capitols (ionic, doric, Corinthian and Tuscan) with carved out seats, and a grinding rock climber. Where not covered with safety surfacing, the surface of the ground is either grass where there are trees, mulch. A bench sits over the location of one of the side wall-fountain described above. A concrete path leads from the eastern-most to the western-most set of gates within the fenced area.
41	Eastern part of Children's Play Area	A swing set with two swings for young children is comprised of two tubular steel posts and cross member. Two sling swings are positioned in a generous area of resilient safety surfacing.

	<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
and or is	2006	Good	No	
a cing.	2006	Good	No	



Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
8 Views & Vistas		
42	Centerline View	<p>The view from either east or west along the centerline is a view down the primary organizing element of the park. The bilateral symmetry is reinforced by the presence of sizable vertical elements within the park, most notably the large trees at the east end. Most park elements relate to or are organized around this line. The centerline, however, does not align with either the paths or cupola at Old City Hall which initially appear to, but in fact do not, lie on this line.</p>
43	View across the Fountain Terrace	<p>The fountain and it's terrace has been a key location in the park since the original 1940 design. Because it is circular with the fountain at it's center-point, views across the terrace from a range of different positions in the eastern half of the park.</p>

	<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
g er e.	1942	Fair to Good	Yes	
ign.	1942	Good	Yes	


Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
9 Small-Scale Features		
44	Flagpole	<p>This was one of the first features in the park.</p> <p>The flagpole is located on the centerline of the park at its west end, relocated to this position in 2006. Its base is a substantial three-tiered, four-sided base with vertical board-form finish. A cross arm allows for presentation of multiple flags. The flagpole is topped with a gold sphere.</p> <p>The original location of the flagpole was axial with Old City Hall because the design for the park with its new axis did not yet exist.</p> <p>In 2006 the flagpole and its original base were relocated from immediately within the circular path around the lawn to a position centered on the west side of the Western Esplanade. The flagpole has a galvanized painted finish.</p>
45	Concrete and Slat Bench	<p>Concrete and wood slat benches are original to the park. They are made up of pre-cast concrete ends that serve as bench-supports with low arms. Six, painted 2x4 wood slats fit in between the precast ends. In many places individual benches are situated in close proximity to a trash receptacle and sometimes a light pole.</p> <p>Historical accounts of the opening and early civic events in the park note that there were 60 permanent concrete benches and a further 100 wood benches within the park. Today there are eight concrete and slat benches in the park.</p>
46	Light Fixture: fluted pole, flared base	<p>The tapered, fluted steel poles have flared bases and a contemporary acorn-style fixture. The pole and acorn fixture appear to be contemporary and measure approximately 12 to 14-feet tall. Finish is black powder coat. This is the predominant fixture style in the park.</p>

	<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>	<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
<p>n in A ere.</p> <p>ar e</p>	<p>1942 Relocated in 2006</p>	<p>Fair to Good</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>nto sh) are</p>	<p>1942 and possibly later</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>both t</p>	<p>2006 or later</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>No</p>	


Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
9 Small-Scale Features		
47	Light Fixture: pole with arm and hanging acorn fixture	<p>With a tapered steel pole without fluting, this fixture has a decorative steel arm with bracket and hanging acorn fixture. It is approximately 18-feet tall. This fixture is original to the park can be seen in photos of the park from the 1950s. A few are mixed in with the fluted-pole flared-base light fixture style of the park above.</p> <p>Historical accounts note that all overhead wires were undergrounded as part of the implementation of the park project. This ensures a clear uncluttered view of Old City Hall and adjacent buildings.</p>
48	Light Fixture: street light with cobra arm and banner	<p>Tapered fluted steel pole with decorated arm and contemporary cobra head. Banners are attached to many, though not all poles of this style. Height is approximately 22-feet.</p>
49	Drinking Fountain	<p>Contemporary steel drinking fountain with spigots for people with all abilities positioned on concrete pad. The bowl is stainless steel and stout steel support is green powder-coated. Historical accounts indicate that drinking fountains were part of the original design for the park.</p>

	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
t and nd	1942	Good	Yes	
	No known	Good	No	
a ark.	2006 or more recently	Good	No	




Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
9 Small-Scale Features		
50	Trash Receptacle	Contemporary steel trash receptacle with lid for recyclables. Finish is black powder-coated.
51	Bicycle Rack	Wave rack made of galvanize tubular steel, mounted on a concrete pad, located on the southeast side of the 2180 Milvia Building entry stairs.
52	Peace Marker	A marker that is part of a world-wide movement to promote peace, the Peace Pole Project endeavors to inspire and foster peace wherever the pole is mounted. It is a hollow square pole with white finish, and end cap. Lettering is helvetica black.

<i>Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Character-Defining Feature</i>		<i>Representative Image(s)</i>
2006 or more recently	Good	No		
2006 or more recently	Good	No		
steel	~1999 or later	Good	No	




Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
9 Small-Scale Features		
53	Memorial Plaque	This post-mounted memorial plaque honors those whose lives were lost as a result of the 2 balcony collapse, particularly noting the Irish young adults in the number lost. Together with the plaque 2 strawberry trees were planted nearby.
54	Peace Wall Plaque	This wall-mounted plaque recognizes the organizers and participants in the creation of the handmade tiles that surface the wall that forms the perimeter of the Fountain Terrace.
55	Peace Wall Memorial Plaque	This ground-mounted bronze plaque is in memory of Martin Luther King, Jr and the wall of peace. It was donated by the United Black Churches of Berkeley.

	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
2015	2018	Good	No	
	1989	Good	No	
	Not known	Good	No	


Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
9 Small-Scale Features		
56	Concrete Bollard	Square concrete bollards, cast-in-place of pink colored concrete. These are located along the frontage of Center Street
57	Steel Removable Bollards	Seven steel bollards, located six-feet on-center, of four-inch diameter tubular steel with a domed cap. All are removable with their housing being an in-ground sleeve set with its rim four-inches above grade. This work was completed by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront in 2006
58	Portable Toilet	Two temporary, plastic portable toilets are located in the park. The first is in the southwest corner of the park the second is in the southeast corner in the grove of evergreen trees. Both have fence screening. The porta-potty at the southwest corner also has a hand cleaning station. Both are heavily used by those who frequent the park.

	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
he	After 2006	Good	No	
	2006	Good	No	
th	Not known	Good	No	

Inventory of Features at Berkeley Civic Center Park

<i>Feature Key No.</i>	<i>Feature Name</i>	<i>Feature Description</i>
9 Small-Scale Features		
59	Parking Meter	Automated, solar powered parking meter boxes are located at the back of sidewalk. These steel devices standing approximately six-feet tall.
60	Backflow Preventer	Irrigation back flow preventer in a cage set amongst the redwoods at the east end of the park.
61	Wood Edging at Giant Sequoia	Wood edging defines the edge of the bed in which the giant sequoia sits.

	Date of Construction (Known or Estimated)	Condition	Character-Defining Feature	Representative Image(s)
are	Not known	Good	No	
ark.	Not known	Good	No	
	2006	Good	No	

CHAPTER **7**

Integrity Assessment

Integrity Assessment

UNDER THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CRITERIA, there are seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A majority of these aspects must be retained for a property to retain integrity as a whole. Assessing the overall integrity of a property assists in measuring the ability of the property to convey its historical significance. Retention of specific elements of historic integrity to the defined period of significance is important. The aspects of integrity apply to the entire site: the building exteriors and interiors, the landscape characteristics, as well as site features.

Overall, the historic integrity of the Berkeley Veterans Memorial Building is good; however, several key interventions over time had somewhat impaired its integrity of design and materials.

Location

Civic Center Park has very strong integrity of location. It remains in its original location comprising two-thirds of the block bounded by Milvia Street, Allston Way, Martin Luther King Jr. Way, and Center Street.

Setting

The setting of Civic Center Park has changed somewhat over time. However, the civic uses and civic center buildings and park remain the primary components of the setting.

Design

Civic Center Park has been altered some over the years and this has somewhat impacted the integrity of design. The loss of plant material at the perimeter of the park; the non-functioning fountain and the loss of its contribution to the overall experience; alteration of the wall at the fountain terrace; the addition of non-period objects and features like garbage cans, new light fixtures and the peace pole; loss of one of the original

restroom buildings; the loss of some of the concrete and wood benches all contribute to a somewhat degraded integrity of design.

Materials

Overall, the integrity of materials at Civic Center Park has been diminished. There are new materials on the concrete wall that now comprises the Peace Wall and its colorful tiles. New, repaired and replacement sidewalks have changed the paving and pathway materials. The terrace slope has been altered impacting the flagstone paving. New light fixtures and the loss of a working fountain have also lessened the overall level of original materials.

Workmanship

The integrity of workmanship for Civic Center Park has been diminished somewhat by the introduction of new materials, as described above. The repair of original sidewalks with varying colors of concrete has impacted the original workmanship of the park.

Feeling

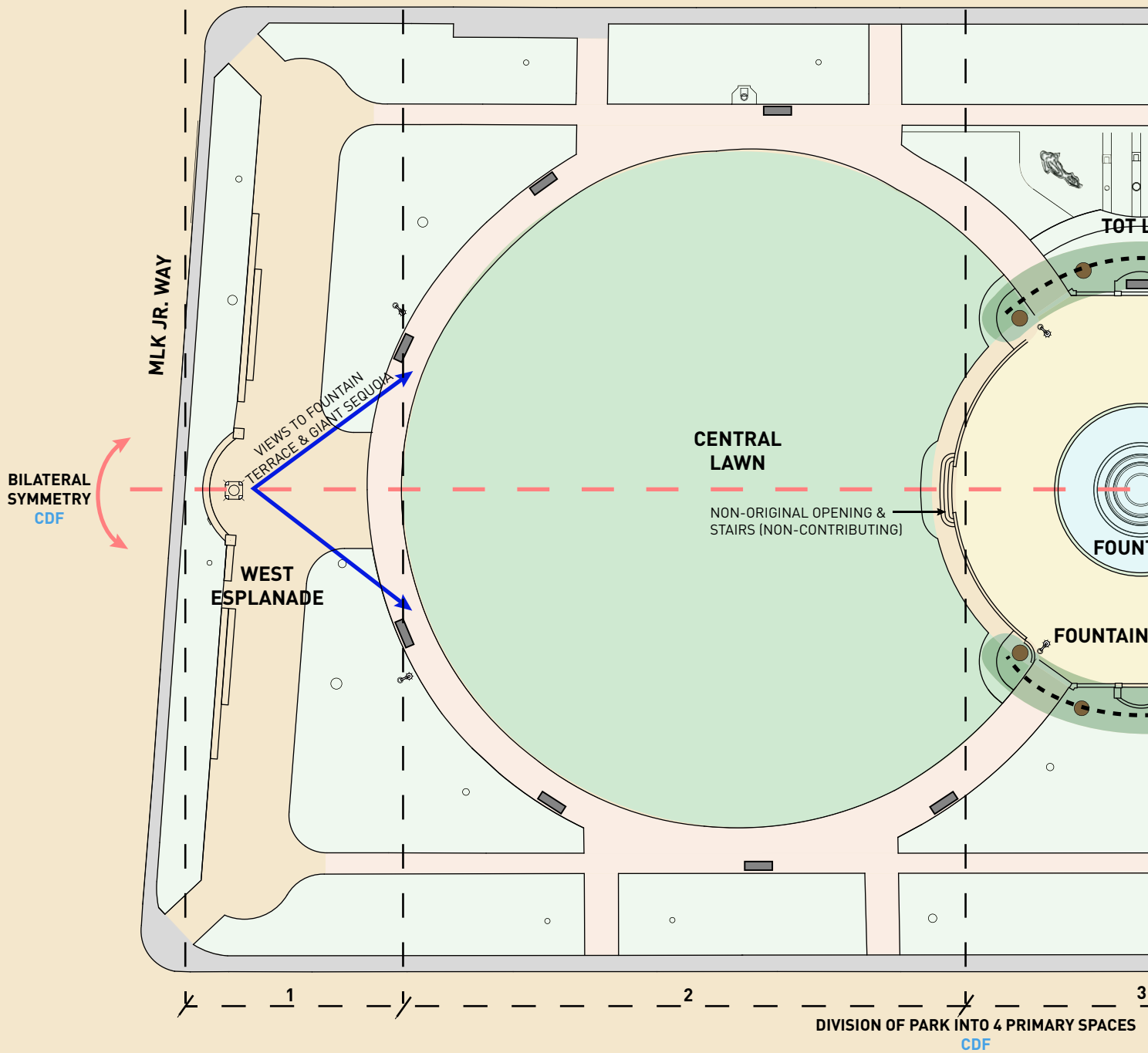
Civic Center Park retains its overall integrity of feeling. It has a strong sense of civic uses and it continues to express its Art Deco and City Beautiful expressions. The site still retains the feeling of a civic and governmental center and environment.

Association










Civic Center Park retains its integrity of association as a place of gathering and civic life. It is the physical and social epicenter of Berkeley. The park has long been associated with the buildings that surround it and it continues to be a vibrant place of civic functions, discourse and important gatherings. The park retains its association with the overall development of Berkeley's Civic Center and it has been the location of many of Berkeley's important civic events.

CHAPTER 8

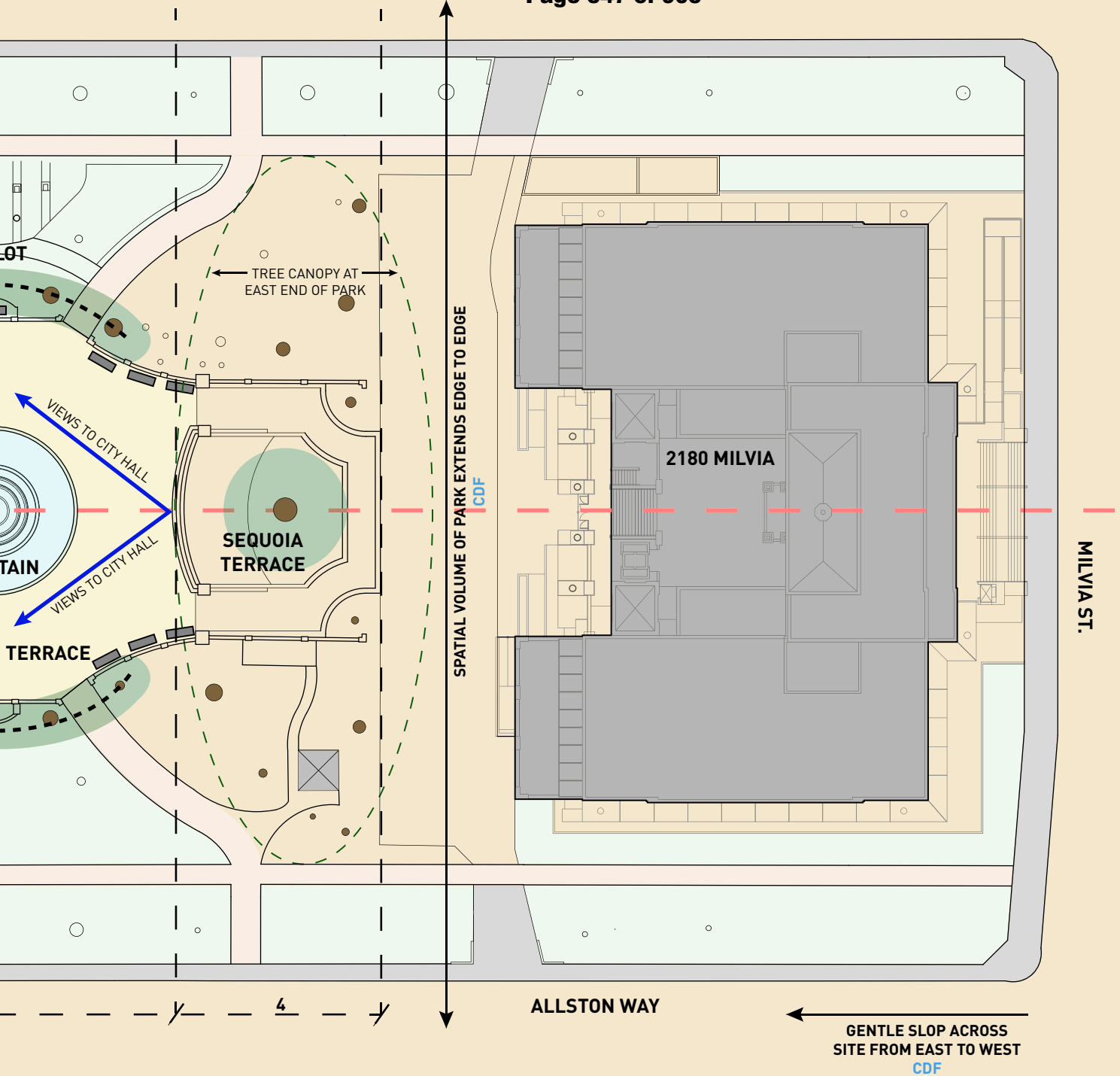
Map of Park Elements





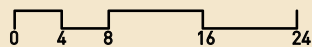
CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
|  Park paths |  Fountain Terrace
Including paving, fountain, fountain terrace, surrounding low wall, and step to sequoia terrace. |  Original concrete |
|  Central lawn |  Circle of Poplar trees around terrace |  Concrete & V placed througho |
|  Narrow sidewalk around the perimeter of the park |  Trees
Including Lombardy Poplars, Redwoods, Atlas Cedar, American Holly, Incense Cedars, Camphor Trees |  Light poles w hanging acor |

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CIVIC CENTER PARK
Significance Diagram



- concrete restroom
- Wood Benches
out the park
- with arm and
orn fixtures
-  Flagpole at western
edge of park
- CDF** Character defining feature
-  Giant Sequoia Tree



CHAPTER 9

Evaluation and Recommendations

Evaluation and Recommendations

The following are lists derived from the Landmarks application for the Civic Center Park and the 1999 Summary of Historic Significance Report, supplemented with current information and based on site visits completed in November and December 2019.

Features which remain from the original design and construction of the Civic Center Park (contributing features)¹

- Clear views to Old City Hall from most of City Hall Park
- Bilateral symmetry is the organizing element of the park. The centerline has four primary spaces lying on it, including from east to west, the Giant Sequoia or Holiday Tree Terrace, the Fountain Terrace, the Lawn Circle, and the West Esplanade
- The Fountain Terrace is comprised of paving, walls, the circle of poplar trees with the fountain at its center
- The focal fountain, including three interior rings of descending height forming fountain cascades, a 50-foot diameter low outer ring defines a reflecting pool, and a tunnel for mechanical equipment and plumbing, running from beneath the center of the fountain in a northeastern direction to a wooden hatch, flush with the ground, outside the fountain terrace
- The low board-form finish walls that enclose the fountain terrace are a key component even though the current wall is not entirely original, and differs in several features from the original, including that it now has an opening to the west not previously extant, and is predominantly clad with individually decorated tiles
- The flagstone paving of the fountain terrace and steps to giant sequoia terrace

- The circular central lawn
- Narrow sidewalks along the perimeter of the park
- Park paths parallel to Center Street and Allston Way, and circling the central lawn, connecting the north and south sidewalks to the fountain terrace
- Concrete and wood benches
- The giant sequoia terrace between the fountain and the Farm Credit building, with the giant sequoia as a focal point of the park
- The flagpole near the western edge of the park (location altered in 2006)
- Eight redwood trees (of these it is possible three were planted after the initial planting of the park), one giant sequoia, four camphor trees, eight Lombardy poplars, ten American hollies, two Atlas cedars and two incense cedars that are original to the park's landscape design
- Light poles with arm and hanging acorn fixture on 18-foot tall poles.
- Undergrounded power lines
- The concrete restroom building

Features from the original design that have been removed from the park

- One of the two original restrooms (located northeast of the fountain terrace)
- Two side fountains on the perimeter wall of the fountain terrace, and most of the perimeter wall itself
- Mechanical elements of the central fountain, including lights and plumbing fixtures (may be or may not be extant but no longer function)
- Most of the original camphor trees and a number of other original trees particularly at the west end of the park. Some replaced with new plantings (typically, magnolias replacing camphors)
- Plantings of ornamental shrubs, hedges, perennials and annuals
- A number of the original 60 permanent concrete and wood benches
- Two drinking fountains

- The original Grove Street Esplanade as a gathering and seating area enclosed by hedges. By the late 1940s this area had been converted to a shuffleboard court at the south end and a playground at the north end.

Major features not part of the original design that have been added to the park (non-contributing features)²

- Fence and play equipment in tot lot at the north side of the fountain terrace added in 2006
- Parking area on land that was originally part of the Farm Credit Building; still parking today, it is incorporated into the visual catchment of the park
- The Peace Wall, including construction of a new wall which recalls the original perimeter wall of the fountain terrace, but replaces the original Deco board-form concrete surface, with individually decorated tiles painted by citizens and social groups. The new wall has an opening facing the lawn to the west unlike the original. In the landmark report, this feature has been identified as being important to the City of Berkeley
- The peace marker located northeast of the fountain terrace
- A bicycle parking area, enclosed with a metal fence, north of 2180 Milvia between the building and Center Street
- Miscellaneous added concrete paving
- Portable toilets at the southwest and southeast corners of the park
- Trash cans
- Solar parking pay stations
- Concrete paving, walls and steps at the west esplanade.

Treatment Recommendations

Introduction

The Summary of Historic Significance report from 1999 defines the Period of Significance (POS) for the park as being from 1941 until 1950, coinciding with the park's construction in 1941 and the end date matching the end date of the Berkeley Civic Center National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Historic District.

In 1964 Lawrence Halprin prepared a plan for Civic Center Park. His words uttered then apply equally well today,

“... the solemnity and seriousness of democratic community government, the jubilation and pageantry involved with public festivals and other events taking place in the civic center complex, and a bit of the grandeur and pomp inevitably associated with formal aspects of government anywhere deserve expression within the Civic Center as a whole... from its earliest and most primitive beginning amongst neolithic cultures (the civic center park) was the center of community activity, whether the activity was play, pageantry, religion, government or commerce. As time passed, structures arose around it to house one or more of these functions. So in a very real sense the Central Square or Park is and should remain the dominant element of governmental center. As a key element in a civic center complex, the Square, then is an important place and means by which the expression of local civic character can be achieved.”³

The NRHP Registration form describes the park's characteristics as having the following:

“... a symmetrical plan; an open lawn space for public gatherings and relaxation; two raised performance spaces, one above the lawn and another above the fountain plaza; a water element in the form of a fountain; the community holiday tree; and paved pathways, benches and trees. It also displays distinctive stylistic characteristics in the form of physical features such as the fountain, steps, and walls that use Streamline, Art Deco, or Moderne design themes from the 1930s when the park was constructed (sic).”⁴

Where appropriate, these treatment recommendations identify which character-defining features retain integrity and:

- a) are highly recommended to be retained
- b) which may withstand some degree of change and the nature of that change, and
- c) which either do not retain integrity or can stand a greater degree of change.

Recommendations are grouped according to the landscape characteristics listed in the matrix of character-defining features.

Overriding Treatment Objectives

Any future design at Civic Center Park should:

1. Provide a revitalized park that serves the needs of all Berkeleyans. It is the preference of historic preservation standards that the revitalized park be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Other options may be considered and would require additional review and possibly mitigation. An objective of the revitalized park is to respect and value the understated, streamlined design of the original park.
2. Avoid impacts to primary character-defining features including acknowledgment and reference to the four primary spaces, the fountain terrace, lawn and circulation pattern. Alterations to the original design that are additive are preferred
3. Respect historical views within the Civic Center precinct and within the park.
4. Seek sustainable design opportunities that are both creative and respectful of the park's history, in the rehabilitation of the park.

Natural Systems and Features

Strawberry Creek is culverted and runs along and under the north edge of the park.

Recommendations:

- Review the condition of the Strawberry Creek culvert adjacent to the park
- Repair culvert as required to ensure continued stability
- Ensure proposed work for the park does not negatively impact the culverted creek
- Currently the park has good solar access on the south and west. Protect the park from overshadowing on these sides by buildings.

Topography

Topography of the site reflects the gentle slope of much of Berkeley as it slopes towards the Bay.

Recommendations:

- Maintain gentle topography of the sloped site

Spatial Organization

Bilateral symmetry characterizes the layout of the park. From east to west, the Giant Sequoia Terrace, the Fountain Terrace, the Circular Lawn, and the West Esplanade establish a spatial hierarchy and visual connection within the park. The edge definition of the park as a whole is established by both buildings surrounding the site which on three sides lie across streets and by plantings of tall trees.

Recommendations:

- Retain a sense of openness at a large generally flat lawn
- Retain terraces anchored by the giant sequoia and fountain
- Avoid fencing areas not historically fenced such as the playground on the north side of the site.

Constructed Water Features

Historically, the 50-foot diameter fountain anchored the fountain terrace. It did this by virtue of its size and central placement. When the fountain was functional, this was amplified by the vigorous play of water in the upper tiers and at night by a colorful lighting scheme.

The fountain is the dominant feature of the Fountain Terrace but has not functioned for decades. It is likely that there is a relationship between the size and number of poplar trees in the immediate vicinity and the fountain not functioning. Both the trees and the fountain are character-defining features but unfortunately the success of one may be related to the failure of the other.

The following alternatives for the fountain terrace composition address the relationship between the fountain and poplar trees and are consistent with the Secretary's standards: A) If the fountain basin is retained but it no longer has water in it, the poplars are recommended for retention; when it comes time to replant, consider using identical species. B) If the fountain is restored to its original working order with a play of water, the poplar roots are likely to continue to be a problem. When the poplar trees require replacing, consider a tree species with a similar a form and character to the poplars but which does not have water-seeking roots. Other design options may be considered for the fountain and Fountain Terrace and would require additional review and possibly mitigation.

The two-side wall-fountains remain in scant remnant form.

Recommendations:

- Retaining the essential form and function of the fountain with an inner fountain pool, two cascade pools and an outer reflecting pool, i.e. restoration, is recommended. In lieu of restoration, rehabilitation of the fountain is considered consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. Alterations to the fountain that are additive to the original design and that do not destroy contributing features of the fountain are preferred. In this case, should the removal of alterations occurs in the future, the fountain’s integrity would not be damaged. Where rehabilitation is the selected treatment, a design that reflects the original in water level, movement, sound and reflective qualities is preferred. Introduction of new mechanical equipment may be done in a customized fashion so that the equipment fits the existing conditions of the fountain (Judy et al 1999 p.30)
- New additions should be appropriately understated in massing, size, scale and color to protect the integrity of the existing historic setting and not compete with the significance of the fountain (Judy et al 1999 p.31).

Circulation

Historically the circulation pattern of the park allowed for walking *within* the park as opposed to at its edges on a sidewalk. The plan of the circulation of the park has a controlled and ordered quality resulting, in part, from the bilateral symmetry (see Figures 4 and 5). This symmetry is fitting as a reflection of balanced and orderly local government. Retaining overall order is valuable, though it does not preclude adding or altering paths. Consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, new paths that recognize and respect the original order of the park’s circulation pattern are preferred. Other design options for circulation may be considered and would require additional review and possibly mitigation.

Recommendations:

- Retain the legibility of bilateral symmetry in the landscape layout of the park
- Retain the primary circulation pattern within the park where feasible including: walks running parallel with Center Street and Allston Way, path around a large open area, paved main terrace, multiple points of connection from Center Street and Allston Way at the paved main terrace, and a western path or paved esplanade
- If adding paths to the existing network, ensure they are compatible in style, materials, and proportion. Avoid using incompatible materials. Differentiate between new paving and historic paving systems.

- Engage with the adjacent streets extending the park character to them either permanently or for specific occasions
- Consider reducing the width of Center Street and Allston Way to allow for enhanced experience of the civic gathering place. This may involve redesign of diagonal parking on Center Street, shared streets or streets only accessible to emergency vehicles
- Enhance safe storage of bicycles for both commuters and visitors by elegantly integrating it into the design with minimal visual impact to users of the park.

Vegetation

The park was planted in a single time period in 1941-42. As a result, trees that remain today are all of one age. While varied species have different lifespans, having trees of multiple generations is usually more sustainable and manageable.

The 190-foot long by ten-foot wide perennial and shrub borders described as extending from Milvia Street towards the west, fronting both Center Street and Allston Way, would have required considerable horticultural expertise and care as well as having a relatively high-water demand. Extended planting area shown in photographs from the 1950s, indicate there were mixed shrub and perennial beds between the sidewalk and parallel park paths for much though not all of the north and south frontages. This varied planting character provided diverse and lush experience for users of the park. Care and management of these beds are likely to be amongst the reasons for their removal from the plan.

Recommendations:

- Develop a vegetation management plan prior to removal of any trees. Include recommendations for tailored arboricultural treatment of the giant sequoia, for other historic and non-historic trees and stormwater management in the plan
- Protection of the giant sequoia is preferred. Obtain an independent arborist's recommendations to inform care and maintenance of this tree significant specimen tree. The arborist is to be a licensed arborist certified by the American Society of Consulting Arborists
- Retain the balance of the east end of the park being canopied; versus the generally open quality of the west end. Avoid adding new forested areas in open areas
- Provide for multiple new generations of trees within the park by staggering planting dates and/or providing for tree species with medium and long life expectancies

- Bolster tree canopy density at the west end of the park consistent with historic photographs
- The recommended approach is to select future plantings of trees species that retain a similar character to extant trees. For instance, do not introduce incompatible flowering tree species. Where specific species are prospering, and not causing negative impacts on other character defining features, use identical species
- Retain species diversity within the park
- Protect the large lawn
- Establish an ongoing landscape maintenance endowment from a portion of the capital expenditure of the improvements to the Civic Center precinct. Ensure a level of landscape maintenance, in perpetuity, that accurately indicates the importance of the Civic Center precinct to the City of Berkeley
- When preparing a new planting design, review the historical planting design for elements that reflect the original rich planting palette while addressing today's need for limited dependence on natural resources
- Re-establish diverse plantings of various heights at the north and south edges of the park where feasible. If new design elements shift the locus of activity, ensure new planting on north and south sides of the park retain balance in relation to the park's bilateral symmetry
- Plan for ultimate replacement of the poplars. Selective removal of some may be considered. *Populus nigra var. Italica* is not known to be long lived.⁵ The massive trees that enclose the Fountain Terrace appear to be benefiting from moist ground conditions associated with being in the vicinity of Strawberry Creek. If replaced, trees that replicate the form, deciduous nature and general color of this species are required. If the poplars are removed and other species and locations considered, additional review and mitigation will likely be required.

Buildings and Structures

Civic Center Park plays multiple roles within the City of Berkeley. As the civic heart of the city, it serves as a place of civic engagement, cultural events, and community-wide gatherings and celebrations. At the same time, within a few years of its opening it acquired a neighborhood-serving children's play area and for much of its existence the park, or some portion of it, has favored a local character. The current play area serves young children and their families who use the playground as one would a local park. The farmer's market held regularly on Center Street has a slightly larger reach for visitors but remains essentially a local function. At lunch time the park is filled with students from Berkeley High School who use it to gather and enjoy the sun. The draw of the park to the high school students appears to be more to do with proximity of the open space (i.e. a local function) rather than as a draw because of its place as the civic park of the City of Berkeley. Historically, concrete walls have been an important element that define the edges of the fountain and giant sequoia terraces. They reinforce the inward-looking focal nature of the eastern end of the park. Walls define level changes, changes from one surface treatment to another and provide an overlook to the western lawn. Since 1988 the Peace Wall has subsumed the former Fountain Terrace wall. Though new in places it retained the original alignment with a wall covered in individually decorated tiles painted by citizens and social groups of Berkeley. The extant but little-used restroom building is currently poorly integrated into the park.

Recommendations:

- Utilize walls to define the main gathering place at the Fountain and Giant Sequoia Terraces
- When building new walls, reference the board-form finish on Deco-era walls, as seen on the lower fountain basins and original site walls
- Retain a play area for children proportional to other civic uses within the park
- Provide clean safe bathrooms for the use by all citizens either nearby or within the park. If in the park, reuse the existing restroom building or provide restrooms with a design in harmony with the character of the park as a whole
- Strictly limit the use of fencing; retain the open quality of the park
- If new buildings are proposed in immediate proximity to the park endeavor to respect the character-defining features of the park. If the parking area is considered for development, per the Secretary of the Interior's standards, it is recommended that such a structure be

considerably lower than the Farm Credit Building, protect historical trees where feasible and not crowd or unduly shade the giant sequoia if retained.

Views and Vistas

The park provides for open views predominantly focused on the centerline of the park and across the open circular lawn. Loss of historical perennial and shrub beds along the north and south and removal of hedges along the west end of the park changed the degree of enclosure experienced by park visitors over time.

Recommendations:

- Retain centerline views between Old City Hall and the giant sequoia
- Retain views across the Fountain Terrace
- Balance sight lines required for security with possible new plantings on the north and south sides of the park.

Small-Scaled Features

In its almost 80 years, the park has gathered an eclectic selection of small-scaled features. Some were part of the original design such as benches, lighting, drinking fountains (though not the current drinking fountain) and the flagpole. Others have been added incrementally over time including bike racks, the peace marker, trash receptacles, three types of memorial plaques, two types of bollards, parking signage and meters and two plastic portable toilets. The intent is that the park retains its originally-conceived streamlined understated appearance.

Recommendations:

- Retain the flagpole at the west end of the park
- Provide a cohesive approach to site furnishings, lighting and signage within the park
- Recognize and integrate the simple design of historic light poles and benches
- Limit addition of future memorials. Consider clustering memorials in one location.

Endnotes Chapter 9

¹ Contributing Features are defined as “A biotic or abiotic feature associated with a landscape characteristic that contributes to the significance of the cultural landscape.”

–*Cultural Landscape Inventory Professional Procedures Guide*, 1998

Also, Contributing Resource is defined as “A building, site, structure or object that adds to the historic significance of a property. A contributing building, site, structure or object adds to the historic associations, historical architectural qualities, or archaeological values for which a property is significant because of the following: it was present during the period of significance; it relates to the documented significance of the property; it possesses historic integrity or is capable of revealing information about the period; or it independently meets the National Register Criteria.” *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete a National Register Registration Form*. 1991

² Non-Contributing Features are defined as “A biotic or abiotic feature associated with a landscape characteristic that does not contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape.” –*Cultural Landscape Inventory Professional Procedures Guide*. 1998

Also: Non-Contributing Resource is defined as “A building, site, structure or object that does not add to the historic significance of a property. A contributing building, site, structure or object adds to the historic associations, historical architectural qualities, or archaeological values for which a property is significant because: it was not present during the period of significance or does not relate to the documented significance of the property; due to alterations, disturbances or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period; or it does not independently meet the National Register Criteria.” *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete a National Register Registration Form*. 1991

³ Reference Halpin, Lawrence, “Report on Master Plan for Berkeley Civic Center Park”, Lawrence Halprin & Associates, Landscape Architects, January 1964. Pages. 1-3

⁴ Cerny, Susan, Jerry Holan and Linda Perry “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Berkeley Historic Civic Center District”, 2 March 1998.

⁵ 40-150 years according to the Urban Forest Ecosystem Institute.

CHAPTER **10**

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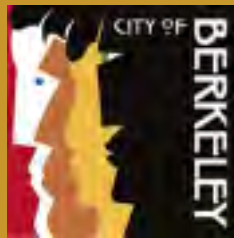
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The UCB CED Archives has information on Henry Gutterson, Julia Morgan, Bernard Maybeck, and John Gregg, all participants in the Civic Center Park Design Committee (1940-42). There do not seem to be any drawings of the original site plan except the copies published in the Berkeley Daily Gazette and reproduced in this report.

Maps

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps – 1894, 1911, 1929, 1950



**Berkeley Civic Center Park
Historic Landscape Assessment – March 2020**

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: July 8, 2020
To: Lindsey Moder, S&S
From: Cathy Garrett
Project: Berkeley Civic Ctr
Re: Giant Sequoia Discussion

The City has challenged this project to provide schemes that push the limits of the existing Civic Center District. The team has developed several schemes to meet this challenge. In Scheme C, the Giant Sequoia (*Sequoiadendrum giganteum*) is identified for removal.

In the historic assessment of the Berkeley Civic Center National Register District, the tree is defined as a character-defining feature and is the focal point of one of the four primary spaces within the park. It is a contributing resource to the district and so is afforded the highest level of protection given to a historic landmark. Loss of a character-defining feature directly and negatively impacts the site's historic integrity. As such, redesign of the park scheme to include the tree in its current state is ideal.

If maintaining the tree is not possible, recommendations tailored to the project may mitigate for the loss of this character-defining feature. The intent of the mitigations is that they are in scale and proportion to the significance of the impacted resource; that is, the loss of a primary significant feature requires a heightened level of mitigation.

Additional mitigations may consider:

- 1.) Relocating the tree elsewhere in the park or immediate context of the National Register District, in a similarly important role in the new design as it currently plays in the extant park. Relocating a tree of this size and magnitude is a complex endeavor and would need to be undertaken by an expert tree moving company with considerable experience of moving very large, mature trees. Eligible tree moving companies would need to show that similar trees have continued in a healthy fashion for a decade or more after the move as the shock of moving a tree can take time to become apparent.
- 2.) Preparing a HALS (Historic American Landscape Survey) documentation for the Berkeley Civic Center National Historic Register District to a 'thorough' level of recordation.
- 3.) Planting clones that are propagated from this tree and grown in an appropriately qualified nursery. The intent is to create the next generation of the Giant Sequoia for ultimate planting in the park.
- 4.) Repurposing the wood from as much of the tree as is feasible. Some may be suited as fine furniture for the new Council Chambers. As the tree has been a respected element of the park used for holiday celebrations etc, the wood should be given the same high level of respect. Harvest large slabs, maximizing both width and length. Burl or other

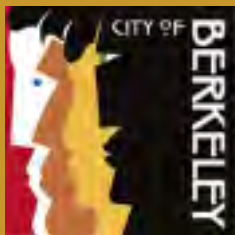
parts of the tree may be suited to making musical instruments. Coordinate directly with local fine furniture carpenters and luthiers to ensure the tree is felled, harvested, and dried to ensure the maximum benefit.

If removal of the tree is unavoidable, recommendations for mitigation for a tree of this importance to the extant park design, are likely to include as many of these mitigations as possible. For instance, if the tree is transplanted, mitigations may also include a thorough HALS documentation. If the tree is felled and its wood reused by fine furniture wood workers and luthiers, the extant park may also be recorded through a thorough HALS documentation and clones of the extant giant sequoia grown in nursery for planting as part of the new park design.



Berkeley Veterans Memorial Building

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT | MARCH 2020



COMPLETED BY

Siegel & Strain Architects
architecture + history, llc

Architectural Conservation, Inc.

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CHAPTER 1

Project Description, Team and Acknowledgements

Project Description, Team and Acknowledgements

Project Description

This Historic Structure Report (HSR) was completed under City of Berkeley Contract Number 19-11286-C, the Berkeley Civic Center Vision & Implementation Plan. Many individuals and organizations contributed to this effort. This HSR was completed in concert with an HSR for the Berkeley Veterans Memorial Building, and an Historic Landscape Assessment for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Civic Center Park.

City of Berkeley

Eleanor Hollander, Economic Development Project Coordinator
Public Works
Parks, Recreation and Waterfront
Fatema Crane, Planning Department, Landmarks

Technical Advisory Group

List individual participants

Resources and Archives

Berkeley Architectural Heritage Foundation

Anthony Bruce, Steve Finacom, Arlene Silk

City of Berkeley Main Public Library History Center

Jef Findley

Berkeley Historical Society

Ann Harlow and John Aronovici

University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design Archives

ELS Architects

Noll and Tam Architects

IDA Structural Engineers

Consultant Team

Gehl Architects, Prime Consultant, Urban Planning

A. Ghigo DiTommaso

Rute Nieto Ferreira

Siegel and Strain Architects

Susi Marzuola, Principal

Lindsey Moder, Historical Architect and Director of Historic Preservation

Colin Searles, Project Designer & Graphics

Judy July, Publication Production

architecture + history, llc

Bridget Maley, Principal Architectural Historian and

Jody Stock, Consulting Architectural Historian

Architectural Conservation, Inc.,

Molly Lambert, Conservator

PGAdesign, Landscape Architecture

Cathy Garrett, Historical Landscape Architect

CHAPTER **2**

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Purpose

Historic Structure Reports (HSRs) are the primary planning documents for historic resource treatment projects. Historic resources are buildings, structures, objects, archeological sites, sites, and historic districts that are eligible for listing or are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* defines four treatments for historic resources: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. These treatments guide the recommendations put forward in an HSR. The development of an HSR is the preferred first phase of any historic preservation effort, preceding design and implementation of the selected treatment and use for the property. HSRs document existing conditions, changes over time, and serve as a basis for proposing physical, functional, and operational changes.

Methodology / Document Organization

The information included in this report stems from extensive research of primary and secondary source materials and comprehensive field observations of the building and site. The HSR follows the National Park Service's Technical Preservation Service's *Preservation Brief 43: The Preparation and Use of Historic Structure Reports* (2004) by Deborah Slaton. Further, the recommended HSR outline of the California State Historic Preservation Office was consulted. Lastly, the recommendations outlined in this report follow the general guidelines ascribed by the National Park Service in *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

Field work to investigate building conditions was completed in October and November 2019. Unless otherwise noted current photographs depicting conditions and features were taken by the project team during Fall 2019 field work. Research was conducted at local libraries and historical collections during the same period. Sources of historic photographs and

drawings provided to illustrate the history and features of the building are provided in captions.

This HSR includes a comprehensive history of the building and site, descriptive information, character-defining features, building chronology, a conditions assessment, an assessment of the historic integrity, and recommendations for future treatment and use.

Summary of Significance

The Veterans Memorial Building is one of nine contributing buildings to the Berkeley Civic Center Historic District, which is listed on both the National Register of Historic Places and designated as a local historic district under the City of Berkeley's Landmark Preservation Ordinance. The building is also locally-designated as Landmark # 89. Executed in the Classical Modern style, the building was designed by Henry H. Meyers with contributions by his daughter Mildred Meyers and George R. Klinkhardt. The Berkeley Veterans Memorial Building was a component of a building campaign that included a number of Veterans Memorials across Alameda County.

Summary of Alterations

The most significant change to the exterior of the building occurred in 1975 with the construction of an accessible ramp at the front of the building. Very few significant alterations have occurred over time to the interior first and second floor of the Berkeley Veterans Memorial Building. The most significant alteration was the insertion of an elevator in 1948. Some interior materials and features have been replaced overtime in the first and second floor spaces. The basement has been the most altered interior space, with an almost complete remodel dating to 1990, to create a homeless shelter, the Multi-Agency Service Center.

Summary of Conditions and Integrity

Overall, the historic integrity of the Berkeley Veterans Building is very good. The building possesses historic integrity of each of the seven aspects of integrity—location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association—to enable it to illustrate and convey the important aspects of this building type within the history of Alameda County.

Summary of Future Needs and Recommended Treatments

Existing conditions surveying of the building was completed by the project team in October of 2019. The building is in fair shape and has largely suffered as a result of deferred maintenance. A number of potentially serious conditions require further study by qualified professionals and should be completed in order to determine an accurate cost estimate for future rehabilitation. Recommended investigations that are potentially

critical to the health of the building are listed below. Additional information about each survey can be found in Chapter 7. See also Chapter 7 for a full list of recommended investigations and surveys.

1. Conduct a building enclosure investigation
2. Conduct a roof technology and water conveyance investigation
3. Conduct a detailed parapet investigation

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties defines four primary treatments: Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration and Reconstruction. The approach to future projects or upgrades proposed for the Berkeley Veterans Memorial Building should focus on rehabilitation and preservation, with key character-defining features carefully repaired rather than replaced. The building has been altered in the past, and future projects should have as minimal impact to character-defining features and spaces as possible. This approach is compatible with the historic resource as it will provide for the repair and protection of key features, spaces, materials, and elements while simultaneously allowing for the necessary or required code and functional upgrades that will enhance the visitor experience. A future use should be selected that would allow public use of the main auditorium.

Priority projects include:

- Develop sensitive seismic strengthening scheme that prioritizes retention of as much historic fabric as possible, while still providing for increased use of the building;
- Correct the source of water infiltration at both stairwells and repair damage caused by the water; and
- Provide a working elevator to all levels of the building (except the small attic).

CHAPTER **3**

Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance

THE BERKELEY VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING was a component of a building campaign that included a number of Veterans Memorials across Alameda County. The City of Berkeley acquired the lot in 1926 and the building was formally dedicated two years later. Executed in the Classical Modern style, the building was designed by Henry H. Meyers with contributions by his daughter Mildred Meyers and George R. Klinkhardt. With features similar to earlier Classically-inspired monumental civic buildings, but with a somewhat Art Deco aesthetic, Meyers' simplified motifs gave the building a clean, unfussy, Modern appearance. However, Meyers' design did not go so far as later buildings, completed mostly in the 1930s, that would completely strip all ornament, garnering the stylistic moniker Stripped Classicism. Through his position as Alameda County Architect Meyers designed nine other Veterans Buildings including Oakland, Alameda, Albany, Emeryville, San Leandro, Hayward, Niles, Pleasanton, and Livermore, with the Oakland building, situated at the head of Lake Merritt, being the largest and most elaborate.

The Veterans Memorial Building is one of nine contributing buildings to the Berkeley Civic Center Historic District. The historic district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 under National Register Criterion A and C in the areas of politics/government, social history, architecture, and community planning.

The Berkeley Civic Center is also a locally-designed City of Berkeley Historic District. The local designation was based on the earlier National Register nomination; in fact, the designation report provided to the Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Commission consisted of the National Register designation form. The boundaries are identical for both historic designations.

The Berkeley Veterans Building is also City of Berkeley Landmark #89 designated through the City of Berkeley Landmarks Preservation Ordinance in 1985.

Period of Significance

The period of significance defined for the Civic Center Historic District in the National Register nomination is 1909 to 1950. The nomination does not fully justify 1950 as the ending date, but it is generally thought that the Civic Center was essentially complete with the opening of Civic Center Park in 1941, and with several additional modifications to the park just after the war. Therefore, 1950 is a logical end date. The period of significance for the Veterans Memorial Building should be considered the same as for the Historic District.

