

A Self-guided Historical Walking Tour of North Shattuck Shopping Village

Compliments of Council member Dona Spring's Office
Berkeley City Council District 4, (510) 981-7140
Spice of Life Festival, Sunday, October 17, 2004

The walk begins at Rose Street in the north and proceeds south with side trips toward the bay or hills.

Rose Street: Berryman Station

By 1878 the northern end of the Southern Pacific rail line was extended to North Shattuck. The triangle south of Rose was created to provide the train a turnaround area. Following the demise of the trains, the triangle hosted a gas station until it was developed into commercial spaces recently.

2211 Rose: Hunrick Grocery (hill side)

The grocery was built in 1908 by a German immigrant who ran the store until after WWI. The building continued to be a store until 1966. For decades it has been vacant and neglected. Soon it will make way for a double car garage which will replicate the original facade.

1414 Walnut: Garfield Junior High School (hill side)

The one story school was built during WWI and after the war became an elementary school. During the depression it was used for school administration offices. In the 1980's the Jewish Community Center purchased and restored it. It is now a very active community resource. The school playground was behind the structure along Shattuck where shops are now located.

Shattuck and Vine

The handsome Grandview Hotel once graced the north-east corner of Shattuck and Vine where Black Oak Books and other shops are now located. The original wooden 1890s commercial buildings with round turrets enhance the southern corners.

2116 Vine (bay side)

Turn-of-the-century style business structures and lend a quaint atmosphere to the street. The building at 2116 originally housed a bakery. A butcher shop was located nearby.

1410 Bonita Street; Bonita House (bay side)

Built by 1892, this large building is essentially in its original condition and is a good example of the Queen Anne Victorian style. During the depression it became a convalescent facility and remained so until the 1970s when it became a halfway house.

1536 Oxford Street. Captain Boudrow House (hill side)

Berkeley's foremost Queen Anne Victorian structure was built in 1889. A sea captain from Nova Scotia had the house built. It was restored and converted to multiple units a few decades ago.

Shattuck at Cedar

The older homes along the east side of Shattuck, north of Cedar, create a comfortable environment for the world-famous Chez Panisse and other restaurants. The supermarket building on the northwest corner was built by the Berkeley Co-op for its second facility and opened in 1939. The relatively new complex on the southwest corner is home to Cafe de La Paz, another community treasure.

1652 Shattuck: Arts and Crafts Co-operative.

This attractive brick structure was built in 1933 for Lauent la Lamas' laundry. For the past four decades it has been home to the "Arts Coop" which began on North Shattuck in the 1950s. Rapid growth in membership soon required large space and allowed a permanent home. The Arts Co-op recently seismically retrofitted the building.

1645 Milvia Street: Whittier (Arts Magnet) School.

The original 1890s Whittier school served as the University's demonstration school. The current structure was built partly with WPA funds in the 1930s. It is an outstanding example of late Classic Modern style with many art deco details. The building was inspired by "progressive architecture". The location of schools such as this along rail lines provided easy access for children and parents.

South of North Shattuck Shopping Village

1918 Bonita: Berkeley Bay Commons (bay side)

Designed in an architectural style more familiar in New England, the building was originally used as a warehouse. At one time there was a second floor hall where the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, Knights of Pithias and the Daughters of the Golden West met. The building has been used as office space since the depression.

1952 Oxford: Richfield Oil Station (hill side)

Designed by Walter Ratcliff it is now owned by the University and called the University Garage. It is a unique design in the period revival style.

1987 Shattuck: U.S. Realty Company

The block remains in the ownership of the family that constructed the Acheson Hotel here in the 1880s. The current building, constructed in 1925 and was affectionately known as Macfarlane's candy shop.

A HISTORY OF THE NORTH SHATTUCK SHOPPING VILLAGE

As Europeans displaced native people in California during the 19th century, farming became widespread in the East Bay. By 1852 a pier was built at the foot of Delaware to convey produce to San Francisco. Jacob's Landing soon grew into Ocean view Village and then West Berkeley. This was the beginning of Berkeley.

During the 1860s three distinct economic and residential communities developed - fishing, shipping and crafts in the west, farming in the middle and lastly the college after it relocated from Oakland into the eastern hills. All were officially unincorporated parts of Oakland.

Within a couple of decades the communities, despite their diverse and often competing interests (which continue today), incorporated as one town called Berkeley in 1878. Begun in part as a land-grant college, Ute University quickly grew, and displaced the surrounding farmers and increasingly dominated the other two communities in defining the priorities of the local government. While San Pablo Avenue connected all the bay towns, the college maintained a direct connection to Oakland via Telegraph Avenue. The commercial center now known as downtown Berkeley grew under the guidance of Francis Shattuck who owned much of the area.

The farm north of Cedar was the first in the area to be sold for house lots (1874). At that time, and for many years after, the northern boundary of the city was only two blocks north of Rose Street. By 1878 the rail line was extended north from University Avenue and businesses started up along rail lines, creating what is known today as the North Shattuck Shopping Village.

A century ago the area was very difficult to traverse in the rainy season as roads were not paved. Those who could afford to do so, rode in carriages. Pedestrians found

some streets lined with boardwalks but at intersections they had to cross the muddy, rutted street full of puddles, as well as horse flaps. The papers of the day are full of

articles about runaway horses, upset wagons or buggies, and conflicts between

travelers. Bicyclists had to choose between pedaling in muddy ruts or on the boardwalks all the while dodging other travelers.

The many small shops in the area were owner-operated and supplied all the community's basic daily goods. North Shattuck was lined with substantial, large homes which have been remodeled, moved or demolished. Those that remain offer a unique built environment.

Following the Depression and WW II the private car displaced trains and feet as the

primary means of transportation. Maintaining the economic viability of the commercial area became a challenge. Fortunately a series of innovations saved the North Shattuck. The much beloved Berkeley Co-op supermarket has been replaced by businesses offering basic-healthy foods and other co-operative businesses still form the backbone of the district.

The Juice Bar Collective, The Cheese Board Collective and The Arts and Crafts Co-operative have provided stability to the area for close to half a century. Chez Panisse and Peets Coffee have gained world attention. Development of the unique Walnut Square gave a boost to the area in the 1980s. Then Black Oaks Books opened and quickly became a popular fixture. Recently the Thursday Farmers' Market found a permanent home at Rose. The Food Court which will soon open near Vine is sure to become another important opportunity for shoppers.

These and many other shops offer local residents and visitors endless reasons to return often to the North Shattuck Shopping Village- Berkeley's quintessential commercial district.

CITY HAVE

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Dona Spring

COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 4

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by

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Susan Cerny and Richard Schwartz
for their important works on Berkeley's recent heritage

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