Current cultural and social offerings in the City of Berkeley are numerous: from performance at the Berkeley Repertory Theater, to UC Berkeley campus lectures and events, to the unique culture of Berkeley’s street life. Not surprisingly, however, when the town was established in 1878, events and gatherings were more limited.

Some of the earliest formal social groups in town were fraternal organizations. The first of these in Berkeley was the Ancient Order of United Workingmen established October 23, 1877. Fraternal organizations were social but frequently had civic, educational, and charitable components. They were immensely popular in turn of the century America in general, and Berkeley was no exception. The Berkeley Chapter of the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) was established in 1878, and a hall was built at the northeast corner of Addison Street and Shattuck Avenue in 1884.

In 1894 some of the social venues visible on Sanborn maps were multiuse gathering spaces labeled simply as “halls,” which likely rented out for a variety of activities including performances, concerts, meetings--whatever the community desired. Often these were mixed in with commercial uses. For example, the building at 2168 Shattuck Avenue housed a “hall” on the second floor outfitted with “stage and scenery” ostensibly for dramatic performances. Shops shared the ground floor of this building with the public library. This privately funded Holmes Public Library had opened on February 10, 1893. The organization was not a free public library, but within a few years, and through strong advocacy by some citizens, the City took over financial responsibility. Finally, in 1903 town trustees succeeded in getting a $40,000 Carnegie grant to build a new main library. It was constructed at the corner Shattuck Avenue and Kittredge Street on land donated by Francis Kittredge Shattuck’s widow, Rosa, and opened in 1905.

Rosa Shattuck also played a key role in founding another of Berkeley’s social institutions. Seeing the need for a social outlet for the town’s boys, in 1903 she formed the Berkeley chapter of the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA). By 1910, $175,000 had been raised by public subscription for a YMCA building. The building was designed by Benjamin G. McDougall and was constructed at the northeast corner of Milvia Street and Allston Way at the southeast corner of the future Civic Center.

In the 1920s fraternal lodges continued to be some of the most...
popular social organizations. A 1924 directory lists over a dozen different clubs operating in the downtown. Some clubs had their own buildings. The Elks Club at 2018 Allston Way, designed by Walter Ratcliff, Jr., was built in 1914. In 1926 the Framat Lodge, part of the Vasa Order of America, a fraternal organization of Swedish men and women, constructed their building at Grove (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Way) and Addison Street. Other organizations, like the I.O.O.F., constructed their own building but rented out the first floor spaces for commercial uses. Some halls, such as the Masonic Hall, were built by one group but housed other clubs as well. Designed by William Wharff, the Masonic Hall was built in 1905 at the northeast corner of Shattuck Avenue and Bancroft Way. In addition to housing thirteen Masonic lodges, it was home to the Independent Order of Foresters, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Maccabees, Loyal Orange Institution, and the Order of Amaranth. Governor Friend Richardson, Justice William Waste, and architect William Wharff were all Masons. Some clubs met in commercial buildings, for example, the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs met at the Varsity Candy Shop, and the Hotel Whitecotton (Shattuck Hotel) was home to the Rotary Club of Berkeley and the Chi Phi Fraternity.

Many of Berkeley’s women’s organizations were located within neighborhoods, but some were downtown. In 1924 the Berkeley Business and Professional Women’s Club met in the Roos Building. The Rebekahs, (the female component of the I.O.O.F.), the Royal Neighbors of America, and Women of Woodcraft all met at the I.O.O.F. Hall at 2104 Addison Street. The Degree of Pocahontas (the female version of the Improved Order of the Redmen), and the Native Daughters of the Golden West both met at 2108 Shattuck Avenue. Ethnically oriented fraternal organizations in downtown included the Framat Lodge (mentioned above), Japanese Association of Berkeley at 2119 Haste Street, and the Hindustan Fraternity at 2026 Center Street.

By the late 1920s the city was in need of a new library. Refugees from the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire relocating to Berkeley led to a population explosion, and the library constructed the year before was not large enough. Over the next several decades, the city continued to grow, and, finally, a tax was instituted to raise funds for a new library. Despite the economic difficulties of the Depression, the City Council decided to proceed with construction, and the new library, designed by architect James Plachek, opened in 1931.

Theaters, from nickelodeons to moving picture palaces, were well
established in the city’s downtown by the end of the 1920s (see the
Entertainment, Recreation, and Performing Arts context), but the
community, with a long tradition of amateur theatrical performances,
lacked a facility for the performing arts. For this reason, when the
city decided to expand the high school in the 1930s, the decision
was made to construct a building that would combine the functions
of a school auditorium and community theater. The buildings of
the high school complex were designed by regional architects Henry
H. Gutterson and William Corlett, and Jacques Schnier and Robert
Howard carved bas-relief sculpture into the exterior walls. By
December 1941 the almost circular steel frame of the theater was
nearly complete. When the U.S. entered World War II, construction
halted, leaving the frame unfinished, earning the structure the
nickname “the birdcage.” Construction did not resume until 1949.
The Berkeley High Community Theater was finally dedicated 5 June
1950, twelve years after architects were hired to complete plan.
The Civic Center Park in front of the theater was also the site of
performances of all types.

World War II changed the character of the city’s population and
U.C. Berkeley’s student body. Prior to the war Berkeley was
predominantly a white, middle-class community. During the war
minority and low-income groups came to the East Bay to work in the
war industries and remained after the conflict ended. In addition,
the G.I. Bill drew many returning veterans to the University, swelling
the number of students, and the campus expanded as a result.

The population change was followed by a cultural shift. In the 1950s
many UC Berkeley faculty refused the University’s demands for a
loyalty oath, and in 1964 the Free Speech Movement developed in
opposition to the University’s ban on the distribution of political
literature on campus. The conflict climaxed in the People’s Park
 crisis in 1969. Many of these events occurred on campus or
just south of campus at the park, but the effects were felt in the
downtown as well. KPFA, the first of the Pacifica Foundation’s
nationwide listener-sponsored stations, was founded in Berkeley
in 1949 by Lesa Knight Thomson and others. The station was
originally housed in the Koerber Building at 2050 University
Avenue and moved to 2201 Shattuck Avenue in 1950. The station
was known as a “voice of freedom” during the Cold War era and
broadcast the liberal-radical viewpoint during the 1950s and 1960s
Free Speech, Civil Rights, and Anti-War Movements.

The first of the “underground newspapers,” the Berkeley Barb
was founded on 13 August 1965 the day after the Vietnam Day
Committee’s demonstration blocked troop trains in Berkeley and Oakland. Beginning in 1968, through the political agitation of the late 1960s and early 1970s, the paper was housed at 2044 University Avenue. The paper reported on leftist and student movements in Berkeley and provided work for “street people” as sellers.18

Throughout the nation in the 1960s, fraternal organizations declined in popularity. In Berkeley many of the lodges closed, combined, or moved. In 1970 the Berkeley Masons, once one of the largest clubs in the city, merged with the Albany chapter and sold their Downtown Berkeley temple.19 Unlike the lodges, the YMCA and YWCA increased in popularity in the later half of the twentieth century. In 1948 a second Berkeley YWCA was opened in the building at 2134 Allston Way (the first was at Bancroft Way and Bowditch Street). The Allston Way YWCA offered childcare, refuge for abused women, senior and teen activities, ethnic studies, and English language classes.20 The downtown YMCA also expanded, and in 1960 an addition was built on the east side of the building.

In America’s downtowns, like Berkeley’s, one common function of the two-part commercial block was a residential hotel. First floor spaces were usually rented as retail or office spaces, and hotel accommodations often for bachelor workers, were housed on the upper floors. As Paul Groth described in his book Living Downtown, this building form, called a cheap lodging house, was common throughout the country as housing for an unskilled workforce.21 Although these hotels were present in Berkeley since the early twentieth century, they became problematic in the 1960s. The building at 2109 Shattuck Avenue is a good example of these hotels in the downtown. Constructed in 1909, and known as the Hotel Crail in the 1920s and 1930s, it was later called a series of names such as: the Vernon, Alexander, California, Terrace, and Victorian Inn. The ground floor was dedicated to storefronts and early in its history housed the Opal Theater. By the late 1960s the building at 2109 Shattuck Avenue had gained the reputation as a skid row.22 Similarly, the Amherst Hotel at 2231 Shattuck Avenue, constructed in 1906, was known in the 1960s for code violations and problems with tenants. In 1976 the Berkeley Public Health Department began a hotel project to counsel and assist these downtown residents and train hotel management to identify the “really disoriented.”23

Over the last 130 years, Downtown Berkeley’s social and cultural organizations have changed as the population has grown and shifted in character. Fraternal lodges, popular with the town’s middle-class residents, were the most common social organization downtown up
to World War II but were not viable for long after the war when many of these residents moved out of the area. Students and ethnically and economically diverse residents replaced them, and the activities and cultural groups reflected the growing discontent of these segments of the population. Cultural organizations in the downtown in the late 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s included the newspapers and radio stations that broadcast the activities of the Free Speech, Civil Rights, and Anti-War Movements.

Important Persons

A number of important persons are associated with this context including, but not limited to:

Francis Kittredge Shattuck
Rosa M. Shattuck
William H. Waste
Lesa Knight Thompson
Endnotes: Cultural & Social

4 Phil McArdle, 199.
9 Cerny, 98.
10 Berkeley Chamber of Commerce.
11 Ibid.
12 McArdle, 201.
14 Cerny, *Berkeley Landmarks*, 70.
18 Ibid., 2044 University Avenue.
22 Ibid., 2109 Shattuck Avenue.
23 Ibid., 2231 Shattuck Avenue.
Context: Ethnic Heritage

The ethnic heritage of Berkeley is diverse, comprised of citizens from many ethnic backgrounds, including: Native American; English; Swedish; Italian; French; Irish; German; African American; Chinese; Japanese; and Mexican and Spanish, to name just a few. Ethnic groups established a sense of community within Berkeley by belonging to a variety of churches, fraternal, and social organizations. While Berkeley has come to be known for its liberal views toward race and ethnicity in recent history, the city has also undergone periods and undertaken practices that were discriminatory to new immigrants.

Discriminatory housing and social practices, as well as limited employment opportunities practiced in the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, restrained interaction between ethnic groups, as well as the ability for these groups to assume roles of leadership within Berkeley. There are very few records of commercial businesses owned by ethnic groups in Downtown Berkeley prior to World War II. Ethnic groups were relegated to the outskirts of Berkeley. West and south Berkeley became the primary location for ethnic residential and commercial centers, creating small ethnic neighborhoods. Despite these challenges, citizens of identifiable ethnic origins established their own heritage in Berkeley creating a rich and culturally diverse city.

Ethnic Groups in Berkeley

Swedish Heritage

The large Swedish population located in Berkeley made their headquarters at the Framat Lodge, located at the corner of Grove (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Way) and Addison Street. The Lodge, a large brick hall the headquarters of the VOA (Vasa Order of America), was built in 1926 by architect S. G. Jackson. The letters VOA are inscribed on the building’s corner, indicating its original purpose and use. The VOA was founded more than a century ago as a benefit fraternal society for Swedish immigrants to the United States. Membership was limited to Swedish born men, newly arrived in America. The order assisted Swedish immigrants in meeting other new arrivals from Sweden, facilitating learning a new language and American customs. A benefit fund provided a small income to members during sickness and a death benefit to cover final expenses. The order was named for Gustav Vasa, the Swedish King who liberated the country in the sixteenth century becoming the first king.
of modern Sweden.
The Vasa Order organized in Berkeley was a fraternal organization comprised of Swedish Men and Women, newly immigrated to Berkeley. The lodge served as the center of social activity for Swedish members of the Order living and working in Berkeley until the late 1930s when the building was sold to a Baptist Church. In 1975 the California School of Professional Psychology bought the building.

**Finnish Heritage**

The first Finns came to Berkeley in 1905, following strikes in the Minnesota Copper Mines. Many of the Finnish immigrants were carpenters who contributed to Berkeley’s building industry. In 1938 a Finnish Berkeley Cooperative Union opened a service station and hardware store in Berkeley. The Finnish Union and the Consumers Cooperative of Berkeley merged in 1947, and organized the Co-op grocery store on University Avenue and Acton Street.¹

**Chinese Heritage**

Chinese immigrants began to settle in Berkeley in the early 1870s. The Chinese immigrant was primarily employed as a cook, household staff, a peddler, or an individual business person. The largest body of Chinese immigrants worked at the Standard Soap Company. Employees and families of the Standard Soap Company lived in a village on Allston Way between Second and Third Streets.²

A number of entrepreneurial families were successful in establishing family businesses. When Berkeley was incorporated in 1878, two Chinese laundries were in operation. Sun Kee’s Laundry was located on Telegraph Avenue. The other Chinese laundry, Quong Wah’s, operated on Shattuck Avenue. The Soo family established many commercial enterprises: a cigar and match factory; a gas station; and several grocery stores. One of the Soo family stores is now the site of McDonald’s, at University Avenue and Shattuck Avenue.³

The Chinese Community found spiritual refuge and a community gathering place in the Berkeley Chinese Community Church, founded in 1900. The church first appears in records as Berkeley Congregational Church, located at 1919 Addison Street in 1905. The Chinese Community Church is now located on Acton Street.⁴
Japanese Heritage

Japanese residents first arrived in Berkeley in 1884. Members of the Japanese community gathered at the Japanese Mission located on Channing Way. Like many early immigrants to Berkeley, citizens of Japanese descent resided west of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and south of Dwight Way. Japanese, Chinese, and African American’s were segregated to an area of Berkeley west of Grove and south of Dwight Way, removing them from the core of Downtown Berkeley, the University, and residential neighborhoods in Berkeley.

Mexican and Spanish Heritage

Until the late 1940s Berkeley had few residents of Mexican or Spanish descent. In the early 1900s a few Mexicans were employed on a railroad repair gang, and worked out of the section house located on Bonar, between Addison Street and Allston Way. After the Mexican revolution of 1910, a professional class immigrated to Berkeley and opened businesses.

African American Heritage

The African-American population in Berkeley rose significantly after World War II. This community was strengthened with the development of civic and social clubs in California led by women who wanted to pursue cultural interests and provide charitable services. These clubs were organized under the California State Association of Colored Women’s Clubs. Civic clubs for women, located in Berkeley included:

- The Fanny Jackson Club—the oldest African American Club in the State, founded on June 20, 1899 by Berkeley and Oakland women;
- Mother’s Charity Club, founded in 1905; and
- Phyllis Wheatley Club, founded in 1914.

African American Men participated in social and fraternal clubs. The East Gate Lodge 44 of the Prince Hall Masons was a very active Berkeley Club with African American members.

Post World War II Changes in Ethnicity

In the first half of the twentieth-century Berkeley evolved into a University town and a suburban community for workers commuting...
to San Francisco and Oakland. In 1940 the population of the city was 85,000, 94 percent of whom were Caucasian. Chinese, Japanese, Mexican Americans, and African Americans represented only 6 percent of Berkeley’s total population. With the onset of World War II Berkeley’s ethnic community would be see great change.

Low-income groups, a majority of whom were of ethnic decent, moved to Berkeley during the war to work in the East Bay war industries. This change in Berkeley’s population resulted in explosive suburban growth. In addition to the influx of minority groups, the G. I. Bill enabled a large number of students to attend college that had been unable to in the past. This resulted in an increase in the diversity of the student body population of the University of California, Berkeley.

Berkeley’s ethnic heritage has continued to evolve. Today, Berkeley is a vibrant community of great ethnic diversity. New ethnic groups have established themselves in Berkeley adding to an already diverse population. The city has benefited from the cultural wealth brought by the many ethnic groups who call Berkeley home.

Other ethnic groups in Berkeley that merit future research include: Native American, Irish, Italian, and German. Additionally, the groups discussed in this section should be further researched to determine which historic resources remain relating to these ethnic groups.

**Extant Resources Associated with Ethnicity Context**

There are several buildings that ARG has found to date to be directly associated with an ethnic group: the Framat Lodge, headquarters of the VOA; the Berkeley Buddhist Temple; and the Herrick Hospital Campus, the first Berkeley institution to adopt a non-discriminatory hiring policy regarding ethnic groups. It is almost certain there are others as this context is further developed they should be documented.
Endnotes: Ethnic Groups & Heritage

3 Looking Back at Berkeley, 9
4 Looking Back at Berkeley, 9.
5 Looking Back at Berkeley, 13.
6 A History of Berkeley, 23.
7 Looking Back at Berkeley, 9.
CONTEXT: Education

Development of Education in Berkeley

Educational institutions have played an active role in the development of downtown Berkeley and surrounding residential neighborhoods. The establishment of the University of California in 1873 was a leading force in the progressive development of the small town of Ocean View into the city of Berkeley. Berkeley’s growth as a University town initiated the development of both private and public schools in the surrounding community. Historically, a variety of educational institutions were established in downtown Berkeley as preparatory schools for the University, establishing a direct link between downtown and the campus community. These early public and private institutions created a unique environment, one in which education has been at the forefront of civic pride and urban development.

University of California, Berkeley

The University of California campus has been one of Berkeley’s dominant economic and social forces since its establishment in 1873. The University was created by merging the College of California (a private institution) and the Agricultural, Mining, and Mechanical Arts College (a State land grant institution).

The College of California was founded in 1855 in Oakland, by Congregational Minister Henry Durant. In an effort to obtain land for future expansion, the board of trustees purchased 160 acres of Berkeley land in 1866. That same year, the California state legislature established the Agricultural, Mining, and Mechanical Arts College. The College of California possessed land, but lacked funding to support a thriving educational environment; the newly founded Agricultural, Mining, and Mechanical Arts University had public funds, but no land. The merger of the two institutions benefited both organizations and the community. On March 23rd, 1868, the Governor signed into law the Organic Act, including a program of manual labor in connection with the agriculture college, thus creating the University of California.

In September 1873 the University, with an enrollment of 191 students, relocated to Berkeley. The University utilized the former College of California’s Oakland buildings until architect David Farquharsen completed South Hall and North Hall at the Berkeley
site in 1878. The University and the City of Berkeley grew together slowly during the institution’s early years. While the grounds of the University were being developed, downtown Berkeley was experiencing a period of growth with the development of Center Street, creating an axial relation between downtown Berkeley and the campus. The campus was organized between the North and South forks of Strawberry Creek, oriented towards the Golden Gate. The historic entrance was located where Sather Gate is today.

Phoebe Apperson Hearst, benefactor to the University, conceived of an international competition for campus architectural plans. The competition, won by Emile Benard of Paris, put forward an elaborate French Beaux-Arts style plan for the campus. Benard was unable to oversee the implementation of his plan from Paris, so John Galen Howard, a New York architect, and fourth place winner in the competition, was awarded the position of supervising architect and charged with implementing the Benard Plan. Howard would continue to hold the position of supervising architect and Director of the University’s School of Architecture for the next 22 years. Under Howard’s direction the boundaries of the University were established, with the main entrance to the campus located at the end of University Avenue, and the boundaries defined by Oxford Street on the west; Hearst Avenue on the north; Bancroft Way on the south; and Gayley Way to the east.

As the student body and University grew campus facilities began to utilize commercial land and office space in downtown Berkeley. The University of California Printing Department, located at 2120 Oxford, was the first of large University buildings built off campus around the west gate of the University. University Hall and the parking garage located on the corner of Oxford and University was constructed in the 1940s. Other University oriented buildings were located in adapted buildings and rented office space in downtown. Buildings that accommodated University services included the Odd Fellows Hall, the Great Western building, Palmer’s, and Taylor’s Building. The University Extension building is located in what was originally the Federal Land Bank, located at 2233 Fulton Street. In 1960, the University bought the building and installed the University Press, leaving the shared quarters at the printing building. In 1960, UC Extension joined the press and occupied the building.
Private Schools

The opening of the University of California in 1873, and continual growth of Berkeley’s population in the late nineteenth-century stimulated the demand for schools. Private and preparatory schools were attracted to the close proximity to the University, envisioning the opportunity to attract the education minded citizens and assume the role of feeder schools for the University. The extensive number of private schools founded in Berkeley during the 1890s included: a School for Boys, run by Mr. D.C. Stone (1871); Young Ladies Seminary, which opened in north Berkeley (1877); Miss Byron’s Select School for Boys” on Sixth Street near Delaware (1877); Private School, located at Berkeley Station (1878); Harmon Seminary (girl’s school), on Atherton between Allston and Bancroft; the Beaulieu Boarding and Day School for Girls, located in a private home at 2207 Dwight Way; the Berkeley Gymnasium, located on Dana between Allston and Bancroft; and Boone’s Academy, which was comprised of several buildings on Durant west of Shattuck.1 Boone’s Academy, a private secondary school, opened in 1881 at 2029 Durant Avenue below Shattuck Avenue. This building once used as an early private preparatory school is now an office building. The first school on record in East Berkeley was started in 1877 by Mary Hyde.2

In 1907, Dr. Frederick H. Meyer started the School of Arts and Crafts, conducting classes out of offices above stores on the south side of Center Street, east of Shattuck. In later years, the school relocated to one of the old Kellogg School buildings on Allston Way, between Shattuck and Oxford. In 1930, the school moved a third time to the Treadwell Estate at 52nd Street and Broadway, where it became the College of Arts and Crafts.

The California School for Private Secretaries was founded in 1918 by J. Evan Armstrong making it one of the oldest vocational institutions in Berkeley. The school was renamed Armstrong College.3 It was originally located in a small building on Shattuck. In 1923, a new academic building, designed by Walter Ratcliff Jr., was constructed at the school’s current location on Harold Way at Kittredge Street. The Armstrong College building, a city-designated Landmark, is currently leased to UC Berkeley Extension’s International Center, which has occupied the site since 1998. The University’s multi-year lease expires at the end of 2006.4
Public Schools

In January of 1856, the residents of Ocean View (west Berkeley) donated land, lumber and labor for the construction of a school. The board of supervisors of Alameda County established “School District Number Two.” The school district was bounded on the south by the City of Oakland; on the west by San Francisco Bay; on the north by Blake’s Ravine; and on the east by Indian Creek. With a school district established, the first, two-room school house was built on San Pablo Road at University Avenue (now the Franklin School).

The emphasis placed on private schools during the late nineteenth century caused neglect in the development of public schools in Berkeley. In an effort to establish a successful public school system, a school board was selected in the election of 1878. Two of the founding school board members were University professors, Willard Bradley Rising and Martin Kellogg. The only public school at the time of the board’s founding was the Ocean View School, located on San Pablo Avenue. One of the first acts of the school board was to purchase five lots on the south side of Center Street, between Shattuck and Oxford. In 1880, Ocean View School was remodeled and designated the San Pablo Avenue School. That same year the Kellogg School, named for board member Martin Kellogg, opened and was located at Center and Oxford Streets, just below the entrance to the University grounds on Oxford Street. A few years after opening, additions were made to the Kellogg school to accommodate high school courses.

In 1891, bonds were passed allocating $50,000 to purchase public school lots in the City of Berkeley. These sites included: the corner of Virginia and Milvia; Dwight Way near Dana; University Avenue below Sacramento; Ellsworth; Russell; Eighth and Allston; and Ninth and Page.

The 1906 earthquake resulted in a significant increase in Berkeley’s population causing overcrowding of schools. By 1909, the Superintendent of public schools recommended establishing two intermediate schools to eliminate overcrowding at the grammar school and high school level. In 1910, the first junior high school, McKinley Intermediate, opened in Berkeley. The intermediate schools incorporated the department system used in the high schools and further enriched the curriculum with the addition of Latin, modern languages, music, and mechanical and free-hand drawing. The growth of neighborhoods in north and south Berkeley resulted in the passing of a bond issue in 1915 for the construction of more
schools, resulting in the establishment of Edison, Willard, Garfield (now King Junior High), Burbank (now West campus) and John Muir Schools.

Washington Elementary School is the only elementary school in downtown Berkeley; it is located at 2300 Martin Luther King Way, at Bancroft. The school first appears on the Sanborn Map of 1911, coinciding with a time of significant growth of educational facilities in Berkeley. The school continues to thrive today in downtown Berkeley, as it is adjacent to Berkeley High School, and within close proximity to the University.

A consistent increase in population resulted in continued Public School expansion until 1940. By this time Berkeley’s public school system included twenty modern educational units.

Prior to WWII, Black, Chinese, Japanese and Mexican American students were a small percentage of students in Berkeley Public Schools. However, during and after the war the minority population increased and discriminatory housing practices resulted in the segregation of elementary and junior high schools. The first effort to desegregate Berkeley public schools was the conversion of Burbank Junior High School into West Campus for all 9th grade students in 1964. By 1968, Berkeley was the first city of its size to voluntarily adopt a two-way busing plan to integrate its schools.

**Berkeley High School**

Public high school instruction began in 1880 in the grammar schools located in east and west Berkeley, with five students attending Kellogg School and two attending the West Berkeley Grammar School. A high school was formally organized in 1882, with classes held at the Kellogg School and a total enrollment of eleven. The residents of west Berkeley regarded the move of the high school to the Kellogg School in east Berkeley as unfair and inconvenient; they proposed that classes be held at the Town Hall, located approximately halfway between the two schools. School authorities viewed this as impractical and sought to construct a separate high school building in a location central to east and west Berkeley. In 1884 Berkeley High School was placed on the University’s accredited list and became the first high school in the State of California to gain this status. A bond issue to build a new high school on Grove Street (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Way) and Allston Way was put on the ballot in both 1896 and 1898. Neither bond initiative was supported by west Berkeley. A third attempt in
1900 for construction of the new high school met with approval. The cornerstone of the Berkeley High School, located at Grove Street and Allston Way was laid in February 1901 and dedicated in October of the same year. In 1917 an Auditorium and Science Building were added to the campus on Allston Way. Later, architect William C. Hays, professor of architecture at the University, developed a campus plan for Berkeley High School in the 1920s. This plan included academic buildings and a gymnasium built in the Mediterranean Style. The Gymnasium (Building M), built in 1922, and Academic Building (Building C) are the only remaining buildings from the initial construction campaign that are still extant on the campus.

The current high school buildings located on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and Allston Way were built between the years 1938 and 1951 designed by Gutterson and Corlett. Buildings constructed under the Gutterson and Corlett plan included the Community Theatre (Building A) as well as the Science and Shop Buildings (Buildings G and H). The Shop Building was completed in 1939, the Science Building in 1940, the completion of the Community Theatre was delayed by World War II and not completed until 1951. The Streamline Moderne campus plan designed by Gutterson and Corlett replaced the earlier building that previously stood along Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and Allston Way. The Moderne Style buildings have Works Progress Administration relief sculpture by Jacques Schnier on the exterior depicting the virtues of work, industry, and science.

American students were a small percentage of students in Berkeley Public Schools. However, during and after the war the minority population increased, and discriminatory housing practices resulted in the segregation of elementary and junior high schools. The first effort to desegregate Berkeley public schools was the conversion of Burbank Junior High School into West Campus for all ninth grade students in 1964. By 1968 Berkeley was the first city of its size to voluntarily adopt a two-way busing plan to integrate its schools.
Extant Resources Associated with Education Context

Representative examples of extant resources located in the downtown area, related to this context include:

- The University of California Campus;
- Berkeley High School Campus;
- Armstrong College;
- Willard Middle School;
- Garfield Middle School (now King Junior High); and
- Washington Elementary School.
Endnotes: Education

2 Ibid, 139.
3 Ibid, 139.
5 Mary Johnson. *The City of Berkeley: A History from the First American Settlers to the present Date*, April 1942, 47.
7 Ibid, 52.
9 Ibid, 133.
10 Ibid, 187.
11 Ibid, 140.
12 Ibid, 190.