

Old City Hall and its Cupola

In 1914, prominent architect Charles Peter Weeks designed a City Hall structure worthy of Burlingame's pride and ambitions. Located on the 200-block of Park Road, the handsome red brick building, crowned with a white cupola, housed the fire department, jail and police station, as well as an assembly hall, and various City offices. Today, only the cupola remains intact.



Old City Hall with cupola is seen (at right), shortly after construction, and trolley-laden, as viewed from the US Post Office steps in the 1960s (below).



In 1949, Governor Earl Warren campaigned for reelection at the center of town—the small square in front of the Old City Hall. The neon Police Department sign is now part of the Burlingame Historical Society archives. Photo: Norton Pearl Photography Collection

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Construction began in 1969 on a new City Hall at 501 Primrose Road. Some in the community tried to save and repurpose the 55-year-old City Hall, but others who favored increased parking, won the debate.

In addition to the cupola, preservationists were able to save a few things: The bricks that surround today's cupola and flower beds were salvaged from the original building.