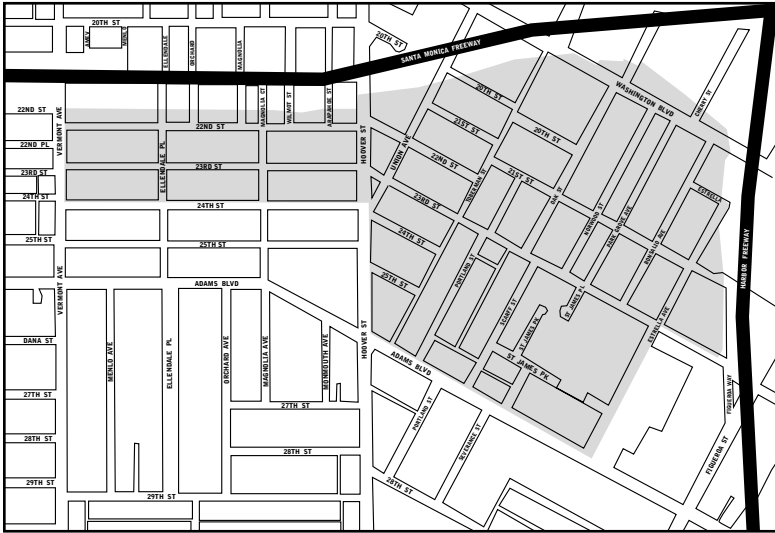


University Park (2000)



UNIVERSITY PARK FORMS THE SOUTHWEST LIMIT OF THE original Pueblo de Los Angeles. The transformation of University Park from a zanja-fed agri-rural landscape to a residential subdivision began in 1879 when a religiously diverse group including John Downey, Ozro Childs, and Isaiah Hellman donated 308 lots of their vast holdings to a fledgling Methodist school that became the University of Southern California. The arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad in Los Angeles in 1886 fueled a region-wide land boom. The development of the horse-drawn U-line streetcar from downtown to the campus in 1891 resulted in the University Park we see today.

Many of Los Angeles' most prominent families built palatial mansions along the grand boulevards flowing south from the city's center and then west along Adams Boulevard. City politicians, administrators, and businessmen followed along. The legacy of their historic homes offers a comprehensive vocabulary of the architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Quality examples exist of all the variants within the Victorian, Craftsman, and Revival styles. The University Park HPOZ's boundaries include 25 individually listed Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monuments, two National Register Districts (St. James Park and Twentieth Street), and the National Register-eligible Chester Place Historic District.



Photo: Larry Underhill



Photo: Jim Childs



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