

# Sunset District

*To ignore your past is to betray your future.*



## Main

Sand, scrub and more sand. Such was the foundation for the Sunset District.

## The Neighborhoods

Sunset

Richmond

Lake Merced to OMI

West of Twin Peaks

An entrepreneur with the royal name Aurelius E. Buckingham called the residential tract he established in 1887 the "Sunset district". Outside of a few scattered dairy farms, and the eucalyptus trees George M. Greene had begun planning at today's Stern Grove, buyers in Buckingham's plat (around 5th Avenue and today's Lincoln Way) lived alone with the dunes.

## The People

The taming of the outside lands for homes really began the day Golden Gate Park split the sand hills. Developers predicted booms and started laying out lots and streets. Early buyers found themselves almost buried in dunes when the winds blew. Streetcar service was limited to a single line hugging the park, and only the heartiest made their homes out in the fog.

## The Places

## Streetwise

S.W. LaBounty's  
history column

The 1894 California Midwinter International Exposition gave businesses a foothold. Establishments such as the Little Shamrock (still serving drinks on Lincoln Boulevard at Ninth Avenue) moved in to accommodate the crowds.

## Links

## Your Stories

Post your own  
memories

Early in the 20th Century, the inner Sunset began to fill in, often only small islands of two or three houses at a time, accessible by sidewalks made of planks. William Crocker's realty company in 1905 erected the first large housing development in the area: the "Parkside" tract, built up around 21st Avenue and Taraval streets. At the same time, enterprising folks made homes in abandoned cable and streetcars at the beach, and named the community "Cartown".

## Help Us

Other ways to  
contribute

The 1930s brought developers such as Ray Galli, the Stoneson Brothers, the Doelger Brothers and others to construct affordable row housing. The years after the second World War, with easy lending policies, finally represented the housing boom the Sunset had always waited for, and the last of the sand lots were filled in.

## About WNP



The inner Sunset at the end of the 19th century, with Sutro Forest in the background. Note the large sand dune in center, between Tenth and Twelfth Avenues.  
California Historical Society, FN-24498

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Contribute your own stories about western neighborhoods places.!

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