

Official U.S. Postal Seals



Before 1837
Mercury : Messenger of
the Gods



1970 USPS
"Standing" eagle



Before 1970
Horse and rider

1993 -
USPS "Sonic" eagle
Corporate logo



UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE®

Neither snow,
Nor rain,
nor heat,
nor gloom of night...

*An original presentation
by The Burlingame Historical Society
©2019*



Snow in Burlingame 1933

1933

1894 - Ira G. Hoitt - Burlingame Postmaster
1895 - Wells Fargo discontinues its mail car services. U.S Post Office
Department takes over deliveries (at least twice, daily).



Burlingame Train Station c.1908
Courtesy of the Burlingame Historical Society



1895-1901

1895- George Gates hired as Wells Fargo- and SP Station agent, assisting with passengers, telegraph, and deliveries

1898 George Gates - Postmaster
1906 - 1st Post Office opens inside Gates' drug store
at 305 California Drive.



Burlingame's first Post Office, today



305 California Dr. in 2019 (formerly 305 San Mateo Dr.)

1912 - 2nd Post Office (first “purpose-built”) opens at
1113 Burlingame Avenue (*at right with flag*).
Joe C. Beard replaces Gates as Postmaster



Burlingame Ave. at Lorton, circa 1914

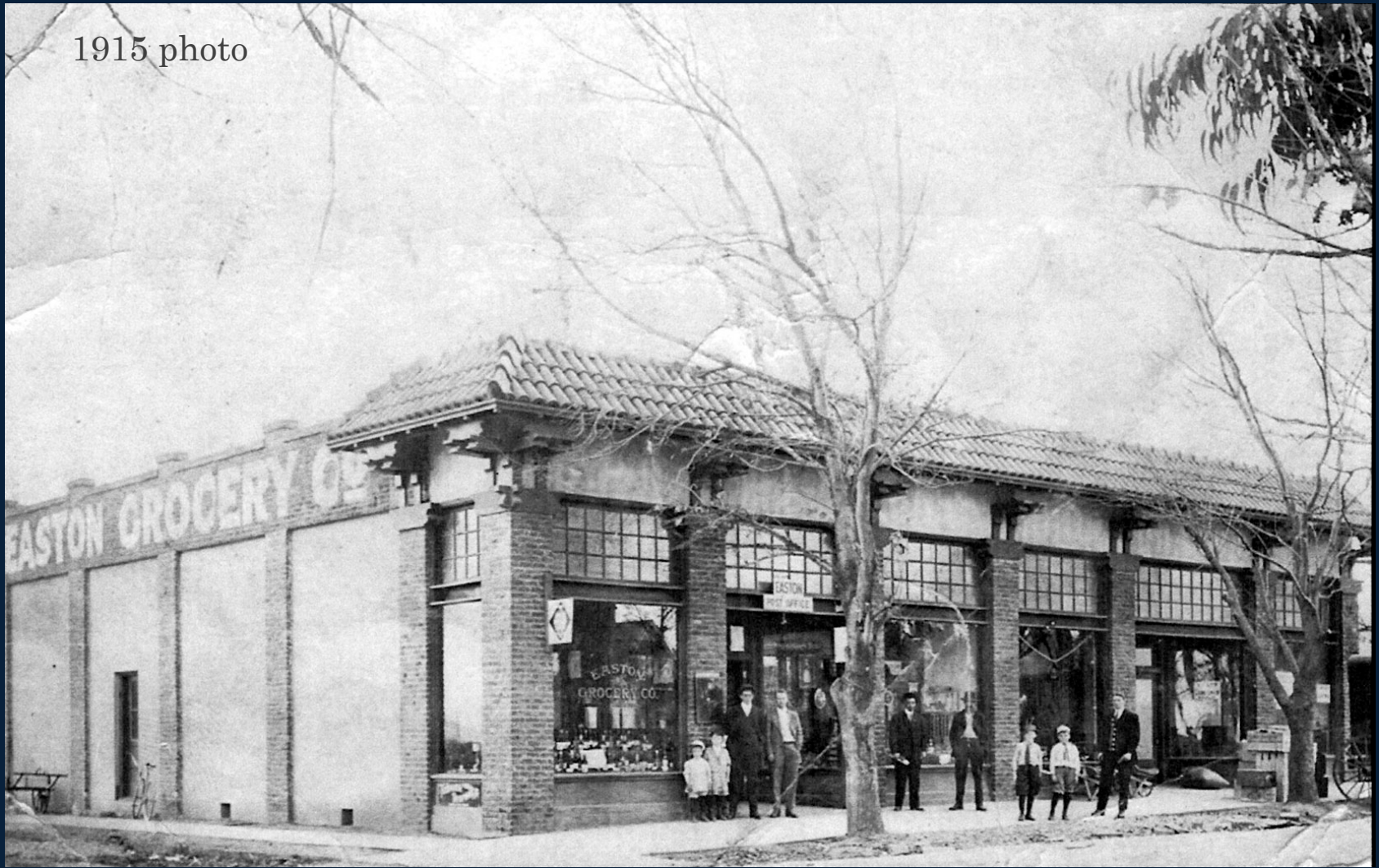
1113 Burlingame Avenue, today



2019 photo

North Burlingame's 1st Post Office - 1151 Broadway

1915 photo



Located inside Easton Grocery Co., built circa 1907

1151 Broadway



2019 photo

MAIL DELIVERY, THE MARK OF A CITY

On July first Burlingame will enter the real city class. It has always been with some degree of timidity that we have referred to Burlingame as a city but after the delivery of mail is started on July first, the real city will have nothing over Burlingame in the way of conveniences and we shall have many things that the real city would be glad to have. But it yet remains for the people to prepare for the coming of the real city with its mail delivery. The houses must be numbered first of all, so that mail can be addressed to the street and number, otherwise we shall continue with the village ways of getting mail as best we can. Another advantage of having the houses numbered will be in the directing of people to the residences. When you can tell your friends that you live at No. 20 Blank street it will sound much better than telling them that you live in the first house to the right of a certain clump of gum trees. Mail delivery and house numbering will do more to lift the city out of the village class and into the city class than any other single move and without destroying any of the desirable country features either.

Burl. Advance 1914

1914 - Home Mail Delivery begins

“... it will sound much better than telling [your friends] that you live in the first house to the right of a certain clump of gum trees....”

Burlingame's Early Letter Carriers - mail delivered twice daily, on bicycle



Otto Gohmann (Route 2) Charles Leis (Route 3), Peter Poss (Route 4), Harold Dornberger (Route 1)

Starting wage: \$82 per month in 1914 –
(uniform and bike not included)

3rd Post Office in downtown Burlingame- 1920s
(270 Lorton - formerly 230 Middlefield Road)



2019 photo

possibly accessible from Hatch's Alley

2nd Post Office in Broadway area, circa 1920s -



1303 Broadway

4th Post Office in downtown Burlingame – 1929-1941



2019 photo

355 Primrose Road – Postmaster J. C. Beard replaced by Joseph V. Gaffey in 1933

6th Post Office in downtown Burlingame - 1942-2014



220 Park Road USPO photo by Tom Gray

1970 photo

220 Park Road

6th Post Office in downtown Burlingame



2012 photo

Lorton Ave. wing

2019 photo

Property sold in 2013 – closed in 2014

WWII severe worker shortage brings about changes:

222 Issued Daily

First Woman Postal Worker Appointed Here

The war has brought about the appointment of the first regular woman employe in the history of the Burlingame Post Office, Postmaster Joseph V. Gaffey announced today.

She is Miss Mae Lee, 11 Burlingame Ave., Burlingame, a Chinese girl and graduate of San Mateo Junior College. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lee, operators of a restaurant on Lorton Ave. here.

Gaffey said that Miss Lee, whom he described as a "very good worker," has been appointed as a temporary substitute clerk and will probably serve for the duration. While she was named because of several years' experience as a part-time employe during the Christmas season, Gaffey said at present there are no other vacancies for women.



September 1942:
Mae Lee (above-right) becomes first woman postal worker hired in Burlingame

Mail collection and deliveries reduced to one per day.

1940s postal tags and labels

Postal examination



Form 3891

REPORT OF ERRORS, MISCONDUCT,
OR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

United States Post Office

Mae Y. Lee.

(Name of employee)

Mailing Division

May 19, 1943., 19__

Return this notice promptly with any explanation or comment you may desire to make in connection with the following reported delinquencies, using the reverse side of this slip or an attached reference slip.

J.M. Bohrg
Foreman *Superintendent*

It is reported that—
On the above date you scored 100% in a case examination of the Burlingame city scheme, throwing 48 cards per minute and making no errors.

(Employee's comment unnecessary if merits recommended.)

Recommended that—
Form and related papers be filed as a minor irregularity.
Penalty of _____ demerits be imposed.
50 merits be granted

File form and related papers as minor irregularity.
Penalty of *50* demerits imposed.
50 merits granted.

OUTSTANDING BALANCE

Demerits *0* Merits *50*

Net balance *50* Merits.
Demerits.

Form 3869

STATEMENT OF CASE EXAMINATION

United States Post Office

Burlingame, California
(OFFICE AND STATE)

City Division.

Clerk: *Mae Y. Lee*

Subject: *City Scheme*

Examiner: *Boberg*

Date: *May 19, 1943*

	No.	Per cent.
Separations	28	
Cards handled	529	
Misthrown	---	
Not known	---	
Total errors	0	
Correct	529	100
Per cent correct		100
Time consumed	11	
Cards correct per minute	48	
Next examination	As assigned	

REMARKS.

Exceptionally good examination

J.M. Bohrg
Examiner
J. Johnson
Chief Clerk

3rd Post Office location– ca. 1949-1952



2019 photo

1135 Broadway

4th Post Office in Broadway area -1952 -



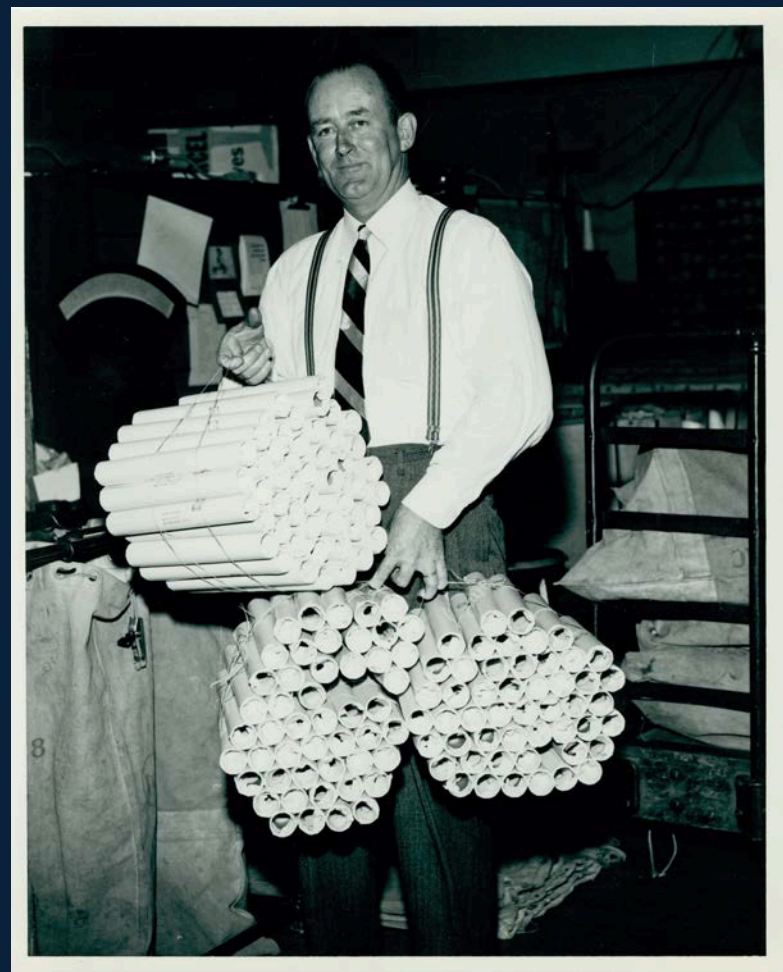
2019 photo

1141 Capuchino Avenue

Sent from Capuchino Station on opening day 1952



Late 1940s J.V. Gaffey replaced by John J. Broderick



Postal Service Salutes Burlingame at 50th



1958



Circa 1970s



Larry Putman (b. 1919 - d. 2016)
Burlingame Postmaster 1960s - 1979



1930: 10,000 trains move mail in U.S.

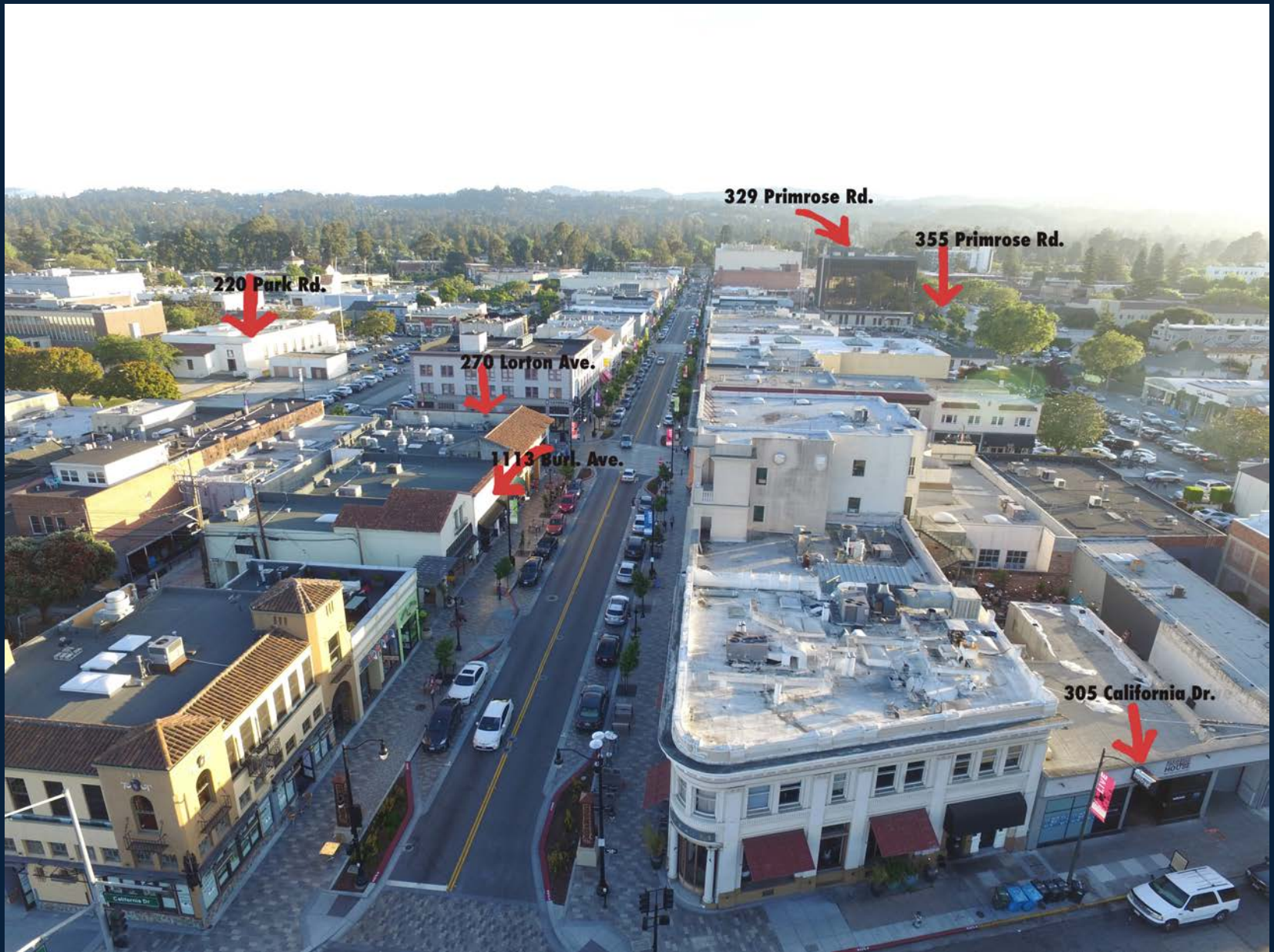
1967: Post Office Dept. cancels all “mail by rail” contracts:

- 1st Class Mail transported via air, other mail via truck.
- Passenger rail revenues decline, many routes eliminated

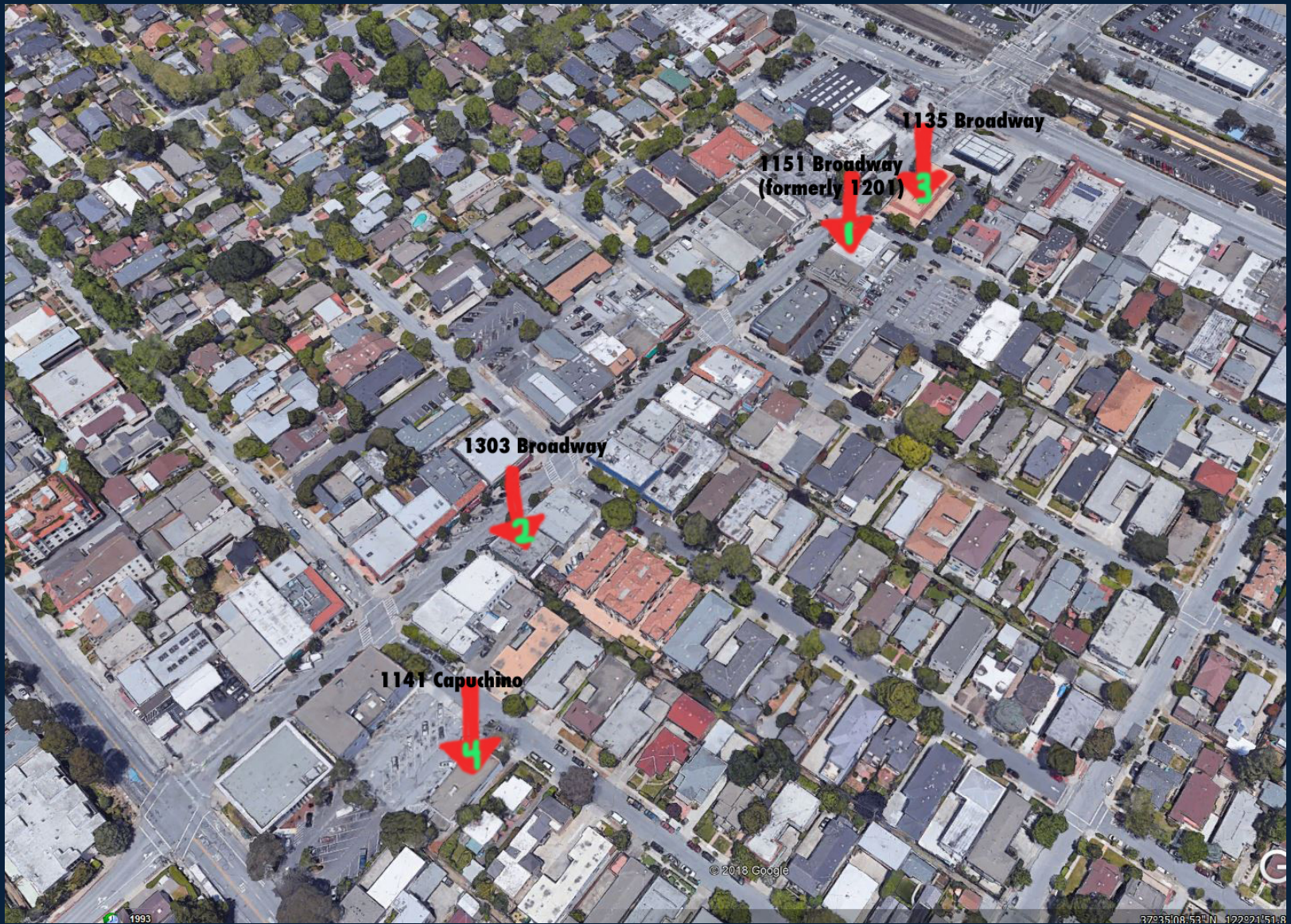
7th Post Office in downtown Burlingame -2014 -



329 Primrose Road



Downtown Post Offices 1906 - 2019



North Burlingame Post Offices 1907 - 2019

1930s –

-Treasury Department produces “Cabinet Drawings” to standardize USPO floor plans.

Supervising Architect’s Office prepares design manual to help streamline designs

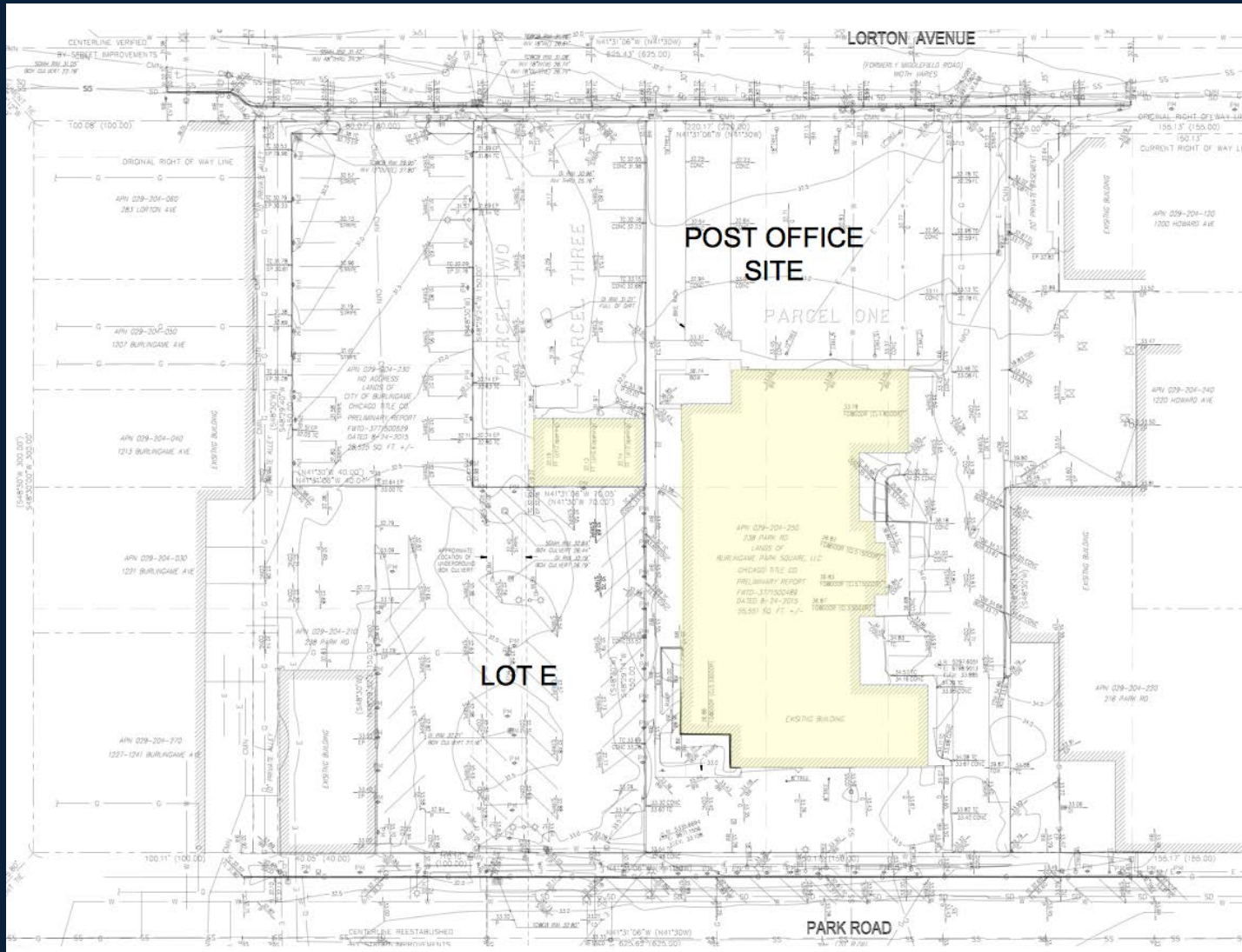
-Stylistic variations in details permitted; local materials encouraged to stimulate employment

220 Park Road USPO
New Deal - Public Works Administration Project (PWA)



Used by Permission- San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

Artist's Rendering - December 20, 1940
Ulysses Floyd Rible - Architect
Spanish Eclectic style



Park Rd. and Lorton Ave. wings nearly symmetrical



Groundbreaking
February 12, 1941



Under Construction - 1941

A “covenant” is an agreement that runs with the property and imposes duties or restrictions- regardless of ownership.

220 Park Road Covenant - Salient points:

- No construction, alteration or rehabilitation may be undertaken that would affect historic features of the property.
- Character defining features (interior and exterior) outlined in detail in covenant language.
- Park Road exterior - “main” façade, including stair massing, and offices. Lorton Avenue side - “secondary” façade; potential modifications must still retain essence of historic exterior, character-defining features and spatial relationships.
- Violation of covenant may be grounds for legal action by the City of Burlingame, SHPO or any Burlingame resident.



Cast-stone eagle window motif repeated throughout

Cast-stone relief "The Letter" above both entrances - 1941
Artist: James L. Hansen - Treasury Section of Fine Arts funds



2017 photo



2012 photo by Tetra Tech Inc.

Entrance doors trimmed in bronze with art-deco eagle relief on transom, some painted gold

The Lobby: Art Deco and Streamline Moderne details



2017 photo



2017 photo

Marble wainscoting (from Columbia, California)
with dark terrazzo floors

Streamline Moderne style hanging lamps



With federal star motif

Original Post Office Boxes



2017 photo

Offices for Postmaster and other administration



USPO safe



2017 photos

Workroom



2017 photo

Sorting boxes



2017 photo

Inside counter view



2017 photo

Inside counter view



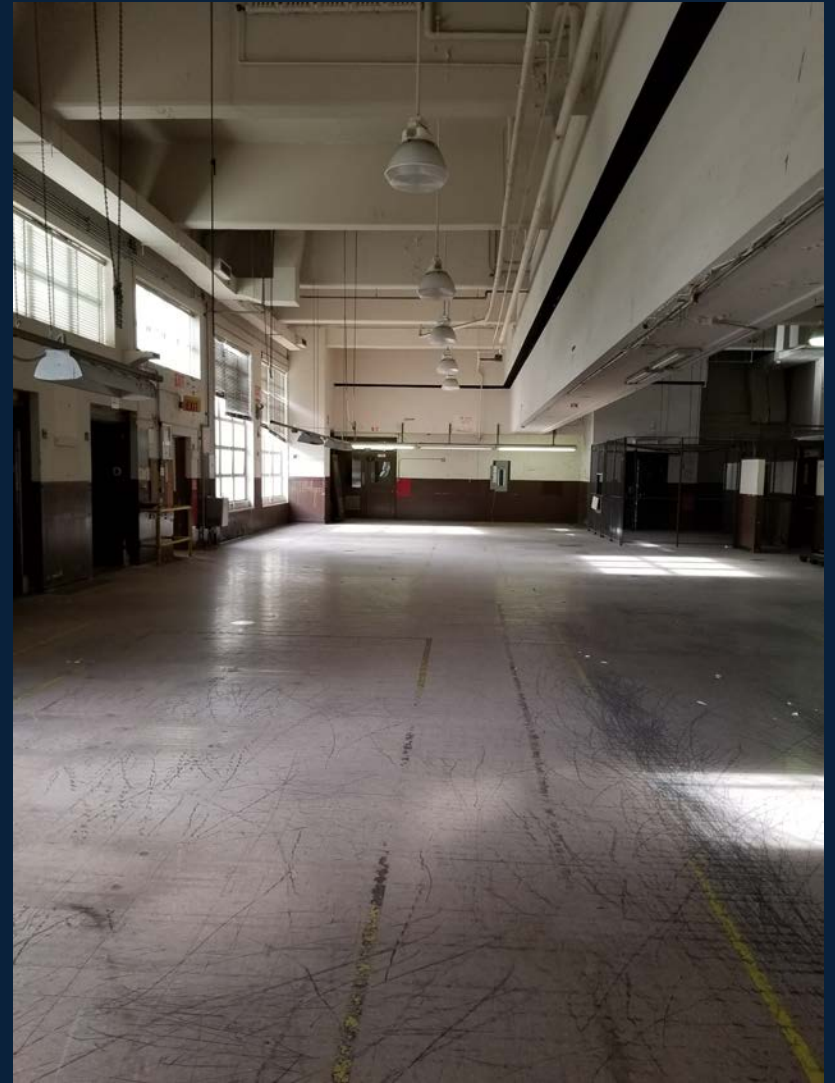
2017 photo

Restrooms



2017 photo

Workroom - doors to loading bays



2017 photos

Loading Bays behind workroom



2017 photos

Burlingame Park Square

220 Park Road (former Post Office)



An application has been submitted for a new mixed use development with two levels of below grade parking, ground floor commercial uses, a public plaza, and 127 condominium units in a new 5-story building encompassing the former post office site and adjacent City Parking Lot E, located at 220 Park Road. The approvals required include Environmental Review, Design Review, Condominium Permit, General Plan Amendment and Rezoning to allow residential uses on the ground floor in the HMU (Howard Mixed Use) District, and Side Setback Variance (for areas abutting residential uses).

Architectural Rendering of possible design concept 2019