VILLA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HISTORY & MEMORY BOOK
The Villa Park Elementary School had two historic buildings that were constructed between 1919 and 1926 that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These buildings were placed out of use in the early 1970s due to safety concerns and sat, fenced in, within the center of their campus since. After several years of discussion, public input and consideration of what to do with these historic buildings, the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) determined that they would be removed from the campus. The demolition of the buildings was completed in June and July of 2017.

To mitigate the loss of the historic school buildings, OUSD contracted a consulting firm, GPA Consulting, to photograph the buildings prior to demolition, conduct an oral history project, and compile a memory book to commemorate the buildings. This book is the product of that effort.
Photograph taken between 1883 and 1886. The Mountain View School Building was completed in 1883 and designed by Joel Parker. It was constructed at the corner of Lincoln and Center streets (caption and photo courtesy of Jan van Emon, The Hidden Jewel).

Photograph taken February 22, 1895 by B.F. Conway with caption on back reading: “Taken after party night before. Nellie Adams, second row center” (original document belonged to Nellie Adams Holditch, donated by Joanna Lighthipe).

Photograph of carriage being pulled by two horses, c. 1900 (courtesy of Ed Berriman).
Photograph taken c. 1898 with caption on back reading: “1st and 2nd grades, Mountain View School.”

Class Master—"Not finished, but began."

Seventh Annual Commencement

 Mt. View School
 Villa Park, Cal.
 Monday Evening, June 27, 1898.

Program

Prayer: Rev. Morse
Song: By School
 Invocation: Mrs. Adams
Inauguration: Mrs. Pitman
Presentation: Mrs. Winter
Selection: Eight Girls
Presentation: Mrs. Morse
Presentation: Mme. Anthorp
Presentation: Scovell Bauthgis
Presentation of Degrees: Mrs. Morse
Song: Zane

No date (original document belonged to Myrtle Adams-Holditch, donated by Joanna Lighthipe)

Commencement Program, 1898 (original document belonged to Myrtle Adams-Holditch, donated by Joanna Lighthipe)

Commencement Program, 1900 (original document belonged to Myrtle Adams-Holditch, donated by Joanna Lighthipe)

Promisements, 1900
with caption on back reading: "Seventh Annual Commencement Mt. View School" (original document belonged to Myrtle Adams-Holditch, donated by Joanna Lighthipe)
## General Records

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## Specific Examinations

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## To Parents or Guardians

The quarterly report will give you some idea of the pupil's school life. The specific criticisms given on pages three and four are given in a spirit of helpfulness to aid in work or study. If work or study is not satisfactory, pupils and parents may realize just where the trouble lies and be able to cooperate with the teacher in that line of improvement and higher standards of work and conduct required.

The regular work in four teachers' subjects daily throughout the year. On every day, the average student reads from two to three hours personal work on the subject. Examinations outside of the regular school program are fine and one-half hour, to be given in the best results from the subject is the class average on each examination that cannot be disregarded. If the school life is to be worth while, this must be continued.

A subject requiring two years and grades per day, including preparation and practice, requires a set of work. Four or five weeks per term constitutes the regular work of the high school course. These taken in connection with a third term given to work in the summer vacation is perhaps the minimum necessary to graduation.

The statements containing credits given on page two show the pupil's progress toward graduation.

Principal and teachers and parents are usually interested in the welfare and progress of our students, and we earnestly request you to visit the school and take part in their work and progress.

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**Commencement Program, 1906**

**Program**

**Commencement Exercises**

**O. U. H. S.**

**Friday, June 22**

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**Newspaper clipping from Orange City News, February 17, 1982 with caption reading: “Orange High Building Joined Districts.”**
Photograph taken c. 1919- Students in front of the Villa Park Elementary School, formerly the Mountain View School, located in Villa Park, California. (caption and photo courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

Photograph taken c. 1922 with caption on back of photo reading: "Villa Park Elementary School- first new building after original was taken down in early 1920s." (original document belonged to Myrtle Adams-Heidrick, donated by Joanna Lighthipe)

Photograph taken c. 1919- Group portrait of students and Mr. Ball, their teacher, at Villa Park School. (caption and photo courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

Photograph taken c. 1919- Students gathered in front of Villa Park School. Three-room building was completed in 1883. The school name was changed from Mountain View School in 1910 to correspond with the postal address. The pepper trees were planted by F. D. Collins. (caption and photo courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

Photograph taken c. 1919- Group portrait of students and Mr. Ball, their teacher, at Villa Park School. (caption and photo courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

Photograph taken c. 1922- Group portrait of students and Mr. Ball, their teacher, at Villa Park School. (caption and photo courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

Photograph taken c. 1925 (courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

Photograph taken c. 1925 (courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

Graduation Program, 1925 (original document belonged to Myrtle Adams-Heidrick, donated by Joanna Lighthipe)
Hand bell used at the Villa Park school circa 1920 (courtesy of Carole Pei). Perry James Allen was a student there circa 1920. He left the bell to his son, Perry James “Jim” Allen Jr., who worked for OUSD for 40 years and was recognized as an OUSD Employee of the Year during his employment. Jim gave the bell to me and it has been used to call our biological family and foster children to dinner for years.

-Carole Pei


Newspaper clippings from Orange Daily News, April 1926.
Class photograph taken in 1939 with caption reading: "Third and fourth grades taught by Miss Lambert" (courtesy of Ed Berriman)

Class photograph taken in 1939 with caption reading: "First and second grades taught by Mrs. Wagner" (courtesy of Ed Berriman)

Class photograph taken in 1941 with caption reading: "Fifth and sixth grades taught by Mrs. Roseman and training teacher Mr. Dozzo" (courtesy of Ed Berriman)

Class photograph of seventh and eighth grades taught by Miss Bucey (courtesy of Ed Berriman)

Class photograph taken in 1940 with caption reading: "Photographs taken c. 1940- Cecil Berriman, custodian and bus driver" (courtesy of Ed Berriman)
Student identification card issued by Villa Park Elementary School c. 1950 (courtesy of Ed Archibald)

Photograph taken c. 1943- Villa Park School students, 1943. At this time it was a one-room school. On the back row, H. H. Marsh is standing third from the right (photo and caption courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

Villa Park Elementary School

Name: 
Date: 
Principal's Signature: 

Student identification card issued by Villa Park Elementary School c. 1950
(courtesy of Ed Archibald)

Photograph taken c. 1948- Looking east to new classroom building on Lincoln Street (photo and caption courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

Photograph taken c. 1943- Villa Park School students, 1943. At this time it was a one-room school. On the back row, H. H. Marsh is standing third from the right (photo and caption courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

First grade class photo taken between 1947 and 1948 (courtesy of Ed Archibald)

Photograph taken c. 1952- First class graduated from the new auditorium in 1952 (caption and photo courtesy of Jan van Emon, The Hidden Jewel)

Photograph taken c. 1952- First class graduated from the new auditorium in 1952 (caption and photo courtesy of Jan van Emon, The Hidden Jewel)

Photograph taken c. 1952- Ground breaking ceremony for the new Villa Park School District Auditorium (caption and photo courtesy of Jan van Emon, The Hidden Jewel)

Photograph taken c. 1943- Villa Park School students, 1943. At this time it was a one-room school. On the back row, H. H. Marsh is standing third from the right (photo and caption courtesy of Orange County Historical Society)

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Photograph taken c. 1952- The auditorium, was completed in 1952 (caption and photo courtesy of Jan van Emon, The Hidden Jewel)

Photograph taken c. 1952- The auditorium, was completed in 1952 (caption and photo courtesy of Jan van Emon, The Hidden Jewel)

Photograph taken c. 1952- Students dressed up for an event in the auditorium of the Villa Park Elementary School building (courtesy of Ed Archibald)
Photograph taken in 1963–Percy "Doc" Baldwin, Custodian for OUSD. Retired in 1967
(caption and photo courtesy of daughter, Roberta "Bobbie" Baldwin-Grayson, pictured at right with sister Patty, circa 1957)

Villa Park Kickball Playday Third Place Ribbon, 1959 (courtesy of Roberta "Bobbie" Baldwin-Grayson)

Class photo, taken between 1958 and 1959 (courtesy of Roberta "Bobbie" Baldwin-Grayson)

Photograph taken between 1958 and 1959-4th grade class taught by Mrs. Nichols (caption and photo courtesy of Roberta "Bobbie" Baldwin-Grayson)
Photograph taken between 1961 and 1962. 6th grade class taught by Mr. Lyerla.

“Bottom row left to right: Kathy Veil, Sharon Burke, Shelly Renier, Bobbie Baldwin, Joanne Amato, Jane Bringa, Debby Klotzberger, Sheila Hartman, Shara dela Jusley

Middle row left to right: Mr. Lyerla, Tim Wardenholt, John Boveen, Brenda Donovan, Wendy Vought, Rita Parentis, Kathleen Bartlett, Matt Carpenter, Danny Luttrell

Top row left to right: Bobby Puckett, George "Buddy" Rowell, George Collins, Earl Gray, Rick Soren, Steve Collins, Steve Freyanger, Howard Verdell, David Green, Jim Forsberg" (caption and photo courtesy of Roberta “Bobbie” Baldwin-Grayson)

French Certificate, 1957 (courtesy of Roberta “Bobbie” Baldwin-Grayson)

Spanish Certificate, 1957 (courtesy of Roberta “Bobbie” Baldwin-Grayson)

Report Card, 1964 (courtesy of Stephen Hoffman)

Class photograph c. 1964 (courtesy of Stephen Hoffman)
Class photographs taken between 1964 and 1965 (courtesy of Stephen Hoffman)

Class photographs taken between 1966 and 1967 (courtesy of Stephen Hoffman)

Photograph taken c. 1970- Villa Park Elementary school buildings (courtesy of Ed Dischelder)
Villa Park school and its principal go way back

Ex-student, janitor now holds top spot

By Carl Fischrapportstaff writer

In 1905, Ed Berriman tugged through his father's orange and lemon groves to attend Villa Park Elementary School. He was one of the students passing through Fullerton Junior College on his way to the University of California, but even then his principal, Charles J. Brown, would emerge as an educator for the next four decades.

The country school was part of the Berriman family's farm. For 27 years, he ran the farm until the district took it over to develop the school and an elementary program for the district's growing student body.

Today, the younger Berriman still works just about where the old bus garage used to be. That's now where the principal of the school.

The sprawling ranch-style school on Center Street celebrates its 50th birthday this year. For Berriman, it was the bowing out on the career with a decision to sell the house.

"It's a fine warm feeling," Berriman said. He kept nos- talgia of his elementary school teacher as he left the office.

"I'm a little bit of a teacher," he said. "I have been around the same school a lot and I want to keep it going.

The choice of a good job during the last 40 years led him to run the centennial celebration for the school. He said he used to be a teacher and a teacher, he said, "I can't imagine being a teacher and not being part of the school."

"I used to work as a teacher and play the piano in the school," Berriman said. "I used to play the piano and play with the students at the Centennial Celebration."

The building, constructed in 1926, is used for storage and offices at Villa Park Elementary School. It has been home to the school since 1926. The school was founded in 1926 and the school board in 1926 and the school district in 1926.

Many changes have occurred since then, Berriman said. "There have been many changes since then and this is a big change," Berriman said. "We have had many changes and I have seen many changes and I have been around a lot of changes."
VILLA PARK ELEMENTARY

The small school in Villa Park was established in 1860 in a small shed on the field center. The beautiful mountains presence each of the days inspiring the school name of Mission Oak. The original school building's capacity was 150 pupils. The school building was designed by a local architect in 1860. The Villa Park School was built in 1860 and sponsored by the Villa Park Restoration Corporation as part of its effort to help save the historic Villa Park School Buildings (courtesy of Jill Kuli).

VILLA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RESTORATION CORPORATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORIC VILLA PARK SCHOOLS....THEN AND NOW!

Notes from the founding families suggest that until an elementary school district was established in 1860 in the Smith Ranch at Lincoln and Center there was no recorded name for the current Villa Park area, which was then a part of Los Angeles County. Inspired by the panoramic vista to the east of the location near Santiago Creek, the school was originally named Mountain View. The community intentionally took on the designation, but a Mountain View post office was denied because a northern California area had already acquired the name. In 1899, postal service was granted as Villa Park. To conform, the Mountain View School District took the name of Villa Park in 1910.

There is no doubt that a need for quality educational space raised the early settlers. The first school building, a gray wooden structure with a bell tower, was completed in 1883 on the current Villa Park Elementary site. Several of the pepper trees planted on the grounds during that era remain today. A new schoolhouse was built in 1919 and the original bell moved into the new bell tower. A primary room was built to the north in 1924. It was joined by the main building by a covered walkway. A raging fire swept through much of the rural school in 1926 but classes resumed in the undamaged primary room and out buildings while the damaged portions were quickly rebuilt on the original foundation.

Villa Park School was incorporated into the Orange Unified School District in 1954. Student populations have fluctuated over the years, reaching a high in the mid-seventies. Many permanent and portable classrooms have been added to the site in the past. In order to accommodate current small class sizes and an open enrollment policy, more portable classes can be added. Due to classroom space needs, the wonderful stage/cateranium building must now house the library and computer lab, leaving no room for student performances and community meetings. Unfortunately, the old buildings represented in this print have not been accessible for student use for several decades due to earthquake safety regulations. Yet, they remain as the only public historic structures from the agricultural era of Villa Park. In 2002, there is a community quest to begin refurbishing the old building infrastructures to meet safety standards while preparing them for modern educational technology. The desire to maintain the interior charm and unique architectural integrity is keen.

Our many thanks to a special friend and talented artist, Judy Schroeder, of Schroeder Studio Gallery In Old Towne Orange. Her donation of the Villa Park School stained collage/watercolor for multi-media use is a priceless gift. The framed original was relit at the VP City Picnic in June 2002. Now, this limited edition, signed and numbered print is our way of sharing the pleasure of her unique artwork while showing gratitude to others for their financial assistance with the restoration of the historic school.
Thank you to all who participated in this project and helped make it possible.

A special thanks to the following people who donated to this book and/or participated in the oral history interviews:

Myrtle Adams-Holditch
Ed Archibald
Ed and Elaine Bertrim
Alayne Campbell
Mark Fowler
Bobbie Grayson
Stephen Hoffman
Cyndee Keller-Paulus
Jill Kuli
Mark Kuli
Joanna Lighthope
Frank Lofaro
Carole Pei
Jan van Emon

The Navy today has a new sailor and the Villa Park school is about toernel and through the Bowers Museum and the University of California, Irvine. It was a very busy day for the school.

The teachers reported that work of reconstructing the school building which was destroyed by fire on the night of February 12, is progress-

The Villa Park School Bond Electon
For Completion of School Plant to be Held Saturday

The Villa Park School Bond Election was held last Saturday, March 29, at the school, and the election was won by a narrow margin. The bond issue, which was approved by a majority of the voters, will provide funds for the construction of a new school building.

The Villa Park School was opened in 1907, and it has been the center of many community activities. The school is located in the heart of Villa Park, and it serves students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

The school has a long history of excellence in education, and it has produced many successful alumni. The school is proud of its strong tradition of academic achievement, and it is committed to providing a quality education for all of its students.

The Villa Park School Bond Election was a historic event for the community, and it was a testament to the commitment of the voters to supporting their community's schools.

The Villa Park School Bond Election was a successful event, and the school is looking forward to the future with optimism. The new school building will provide a modern and comfortable learning environment for the students, and it will help to ensure the continued success of the Villa Park School.

Villa Park School Bond Election

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