

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CHARLES D. WALCOTT, DIRECTOR

TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET

CALIFORNIA
PALO ALTO QUADRANGLE

CONVENTIONAL SIGNS

- CULTURE**
(printed in black)
- Roads and buildings
 - Private and secondary roads
 - Trails
 - Railroads
 - Street railroads
 - Tunnels
 - Bridges
 - Ferries
 - Fords
 - Dams
 - Locks
 - U.S. township and section lines
 - Located township and section corners
 - Township and section corners not found
 - Triangulation stations
 - Bench marks
 - Mines and quarries
 - Prospects
 - Shafts
 - Mine tunnels (showing direction)
 - Mine tunnels (direction unknown)

CONVENTIONAL SIGNS

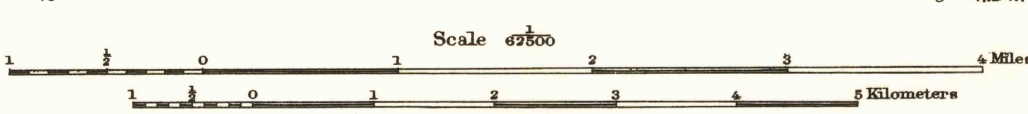
- RELIEF**
(printed in brown)
- Figures (showing heights above mean sea level instrumentally determined)
 - Contours (showing heights above sea level, horizontal form, and steepness of slope of the surface)
 - Depression contours
 - Levees
 - Cliffs
 - Mine dumps
- DRAINAGE**
(printed in blue)
- Streams
 - Falls and rapids
 - Intermittent streams
 - Canals and ditches
 - Lakes and ponds
 - Intermittent lakes
 - Glaciers
 - Springs
 - Salt marshes
 - Fresh marshes
 - Tidal flats

The above signs are in current use on the topographic maps. Variations from this usage appear in some maps of earlier dates.



Henry Gannett, Chief Topographer.
R. U. Goode, Geographer in charge.
Triangulation by U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.
Topography by R. B. Marshall and U.S.C. and G.S.
Surveyed in 1895.

U.S.C. & G.S.
Marshall



Contour interval 25 feet.
Datum is mean sea level.



Edition of Mar. 1895.

ABOUT THIS MAP—As part of its 189th Centennial observance, the U.S. Geological Survey presents this reproduction of the original 1895 edition of the topographic map of the Palo Alto 1:62,500-scale quadrangle covering 15 minutes of latitude and longitude.

The original was printed from engraved copper plates; this version was made by optically scanning a copy of the published map to produce a separate negative for each color (brown, blue and black). Some lines that did not record well were strengthened by using negative engraving techniques. The Departmental and USGS Centennial seals were added, and the final negatives then used to prepare lithographic printing plates. Explanatory text on the back of the original is reproduced on the back of this sheet. Only the first edition carried symbols (conventional signs) in color on the margins; on the nine later printings (1901 to 1944), symbols were in gray on the back.

Most of the surveying was done in 1895. Traveling by horse and buggy and foot, USGS topographer R. B. Marshall worked out from a few preexisting triangulation stations to plot the horizontal positions of hilltops, streams and cultural features by the use of intersecting lines. Starting at known elevations along the railroad, he used vertical angles to obtain elevations in the hills, and then sketched the contours. All things considered, his work was remarkably accurate. Salt marsh detail was taken from work by another agency, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The map includes two newly-completed prominent features: Stanford University, opened in 1891, and the town of Palo Alto, laid out simultaneously to provide a saloon-free alternative to the rough settlements of Menlo Park and Mayfield (which was located 1½ miles northwest of the present shopping center of that name). Some name changes are noteworthy: Redwood later

became Redwood City; Fair Oaks became Atherton; Murphy became Sunnyvale; West Side became Cupertino; Coyote River (upper right) became Coyote Creek; Congress Heights (lower right) was changed to Congress Springs on later editions and then, along with Azure Springs, vanished, not to appear on newer maps.

When Gaspar de Portola's expedition camped beside the banks of San Francisco Creek in 1769, the land was a park-like tapestry of oaks and grass, and the salt marshes yielded a rich harvest of shellfish and waterfowl to the Indians. He and his men scarcely could have dreamed what they had begun. The changes reflected here are only a foretaste of those to be seen on the 1973 USGS 1:24,000-scale maps of the area. Describing Earth's surface at a moment in time, topographic maps are both scientific and historical documents, serving both contemporary and following generations.

USGS
HISTORICAL FILE
TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION
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PALO ALTO, CALIF.
1895