

ABOUT THIS MAP SOURCES & BACKGROUND



This map is a work in process. We welcome your feedback and input.
WWW.PANORAMAONVIEW.ORG/MAJOR-PROJECTS/MAP

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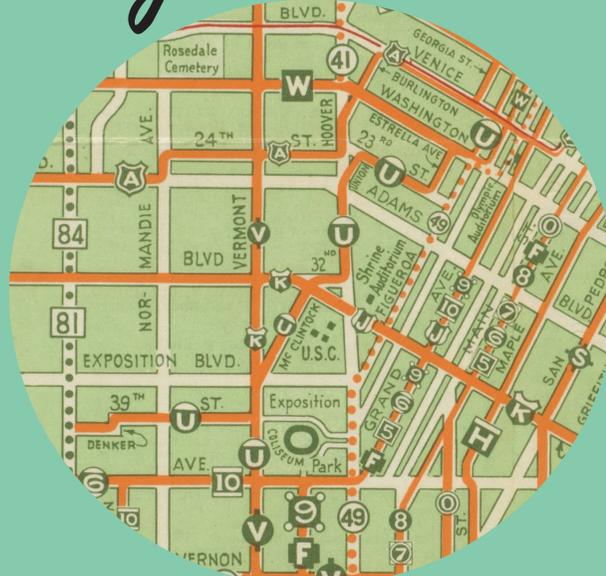
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STREET VIEW: Sara Velas. HISTORIC TRANSIT MAP (1935): Los Angeles Public Library, Map Collection. HATTIE MCDANIEL: Wikimedia. HATTIE MCDANIEL HOUSE: Los Angeles Public Library, Shades of L.A. Collection. SHRINE AUDITORIUM: USC Digital Library, "Dick" Whittington Photography Collection. EXPOSITION PARK: Collection of Velaslavasay Panorama. FELIX CHEVROLET: Library of Congress, John Margolies Collection. PETES BURGERS: Velaslavasay Panorama. HARBOR FREEWAY: Los Angeles Public Library, William Reagh Collection. ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH & GAS STATION: USC Digital Library, "Dick" Whittington Photography Collection. CRISTO DE ARBOL: Velaslavasay Panorama. THEDA BARA: Film still from "Salome" (1918). HISTORIC TRANSIT MAP (1909): Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division. DINGBAT: Sara Velas. CASA DE ROSAS: Los Angeles Public Library, Security Pacific National Bank Collection. VELASLAVASAY PANORAMA/UNION THEATRE: Ryan Schude.

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VELASLAVASAY PANORAMA'S *Neighborhood*



A MAP, AN INTRODUCTION

When the Union Theatre, home of the Velaslavasay Panorama, was built in 1910, Los Angeles was served by an extensive system of streetcars and other rail transit. Indeed, University Park and surrounding neighborhoods are some of the few in the region that were built before the car became the primary way to get around.

Southern Pacific Railway advertised California tourism, luring visitors with an 'aroma of romance and atmosphere of historical association that bends and envelops like a fine ether' - P. S. K. Young

We invite you to follow the ghosts of the early twentieth century rail lines, connecting the Velaslavasay Panorama to LA Metro's current stations to the east, south, and southwest of us. Explore our Los Angeles, what's here, what was here.

VELASLAVASAY PANORAMA
1122 WEST 24TH STREET
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"NOTABLE QUOTES" WEST ADAMS & THE FREEWAYS

West Adams, as defined [here], is a narrow east-west corridor with the Santa Monica Freeway ... as its northern boundary, Figueroa Street as the eastern ... Jefferson Boulevard to the south, and Crenshaw Boulevard on the west....

West Adams in one sense represents something that we erased from the city when we built the Santa Monica Freeway.... The seemingly endless blocks of early-twentieth-century Craftsman and period revival houses were severed lengthwise by a four-hundred-foot-wide river of cars and trucks.

Many excellent homes were demolished; the social structure was rearranged with dead-end streets and artificially pigeonholed neighborhoods. Today, it is impossible to conceive of Los Angeles without that freeway. It is nearly as impossible to imagine how Western Heights, Harvard Heights, and Pico-Union north of the freeway were connected at birth to West Adams Terrace, Adams-Normandie, and University Park south of the freeway. West Adams is the mythic unbroken plain that once encompassed all these now tidy and useful micro-neighborhood identifications.

— David Gebhard, Robert Winter, Robert Inman
An Architectural Guidebook to Los Angeles

Maria lay at night in the still of Beverly Hills and saw the great signs soar overhead at seventy miles and hour, Normandie $\frac{1}{4}$ Vermont $\frac{3}{4}$ Harbor Fwy 1.... Sometimes at night the dread would overtake her, bathe her in sweat.... [B]ut she never thought about that on the freeway.

— Joan Didion, *Plays It as It Lays, a Novel*

Gathering and staring is one of the great pastimes in the countries of the world. But not in Los Angeles.... [W]e were pushed off the familiar sidewalks or banned from the old places.... How can we bring it back?.... We drive... and drive... and drive.... We have seen nothing, nor have we been seen.

— Ray Bradbury, *Yestermorrow*



A16 HATTIE McDANIEL'S HOUSE



Hattie McDaniel, the first Black Academy Award recipient, for *Gone with the Wind*, lived here. McDaniel entertained a racially-

integrated crowd, in part due to the example of her friend, Clark Gable. Other prominent Blacks purchased homes in the area, which became known as Sugar Hill. Unhappy about this, some white homeowners sued McDaniel and others. The lawsuit "revitalized the actress... she helped to organize the black West Adams residents."¹ As a result, State and Federal courts struck-down restrictive covenants by 1949. While McDaniel was able to live where she wanted, not so in death. McDaniel is buried in Angelus Rosedale Cemetery, rebuffed by the Hollywood Cemetery. Now Hollywood Forever, it has since installed a monument in her honor.

K1 SHRINE AUDITORIUM



At the Al Malaikah Temple - Shrine Auditorium "Islamic imagery from somewhere (Hollywood stage sets, perhaps?) was employed externally and internally."² Intermittently host to the Academy Awards between the 1940s and the turn of the century (and maybe again?), the Shrine is the largest theater in Los Angeles, with 6,300 seats. The Shrine has also starred in films, including 1933's *King Kong* and Judy Garland's *A Star is Born*.



T8 EXPOSITION PARK

Established in 1872 as an agricultural fairground, Exposition Park was outside the legal and social mores of the city. By the end of the 1800s, the character of the agricultural park was one of nefarious pursuits.² Host to two (and soon three) Olympics, the park includes the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Exposition Park Rose Garden, the California African American Museum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and more.

K2 FELIX CHEVROLET

"If the Hollywood Sign is the most memorable symbol of Tinsel Town, the giant Felix the Cat, smiling from the rooftop of Felix Chevrolet, is arguably the second most iconic sign in Los Angeles. In fact, the histories of the Cat and the Auto Dealership are inextricably intertwined. The cartoon character, designed by Pat Sullivan, originated in 1919. Winslow B. Felix established Felix Chevrolet in 1921. Pat and Winslow became friends, and since Winslow and the Cat had the same name, they decided to cross-market their brands. The dealership promoted the Cat and the cartoon character promoted Felix Chevrolet."³



U1 PETE'S BURGERS

This picturesque building and fast-food venue has served the neighborhood as Pete's Burgers since 1972. In 1925 the site was a "filling station" owned by the Standard Oil Company. The rooftop signage advertising the previous "Drive-in Burgers" occupant was once serviced by Luminart Neon.



W6 ORIGINAL FATBURGER

Now the site of affordable housing, the original Fatburger was opened on Western Avenue 1947 by founder Lovie Yancey, an African-American woman. The burger stand was referenced in television, film and song. Regular customers included Redd Foxx and Ray Charles.

A13 GOLDEN STATE LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING

Currently home to South Central Los Angeles Regional Center, a non-profit that provides services to people with developmental disabilities, the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building was designed by Paul Revere Williams. Williams was the first African-American to receive (posthumously) the American Institute of Architects' highest honor. Starting in a single room, Golden State provided insurance to African-Americans when other firms would not. Moving into the Williams building that they commissioned in 1949 was an achievement for the company with great symbolic value for African-American Angelenos. In addition to insurance, in 1965 Golden State inaugurated the "Negro Art Collection."⁴ With fewer than twenty works, it included murals by Hale Woodruff and Charles Alston "with scenes depicting the achievements of African-Americans in California's history."⁴ As it did with insurance, Golden State provided African-American artists patronage not available elsewhere. The collection was dispersed with the closing of the company.



A1 U14 AB6 HARBOR FREEWAY/SANTA MONICA FREEWAY

"Whether you regard them as crowns of thorns or chaplets of laurels, the freeways are what the tutelary deity of the City of Angels should wear upon her head."⁵



AB6 ADAMS AND FIGUEROA: GOD AND CARS

This intersection is the essence of a kind of Los Angeles: beauty and banality; spiritual and basic; God, cars, gas, and fast food. The Spanish Churrigueresque (via Mexico, via San Diego) St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (1925) and the Spanish Revival Los Angeles Branch of the AAA (1923) complement and compete with each other. They are both impressive



structures, while, down the block on Adams Boulevard, Northern Italian-inspired St. John's Episcopal Cathedral (1923) sits hard by the Harbor Freeway. The funeral for William Andrews Clark, Junior, philanthropist, was held here in 1934, prior to the construction of the freeway.

A3 CRISTO DE ARBOL

Cristo del Árbol, a statue crafted from a tree and adorned with bouquets of flowers, stands as a cherished landmark annually commemorated by the neighborhood and community of St. Agnes Church.



Reluctantly, Theda Bara moved from New York to Los Angeles in 1917 for the filming of *Cleopatra*. Producer William Fox furnished this house to mirror Bara's on-screen persona: "Early Vampire... heavy with ottomans, fur rugs, and beaded curtains. The walls were hung with cretonne prints and the air wreaked of heavy musk."⁶ In 2003, the Velaslavskaya Panorama, at its Hollywood Boulevard incarnation, conducted séances to communicate with Bara. They were determined to be inconclusive.



AB4 THEDA BARA'S HOUSE

VELASLAVASAY PANORAMA'S NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

VELASLAVASAY PANORAMA'S Neighborhood Map



Following old streetcar lines (mostly) between the Velaslavasay Panorama and LA Metro E and A Lines, the map is a limited selection of things to see, some of which cannot be seen anymore. Traces of the city remain in photos, Sanborn Maps (produced by an insurance company and now an invaluable record), articles, and memory.

- A LINE - Hoover St./Union Ave.**
- A1 - The Santa Monica 10 Freeway**
Parallel between Washington Blvd. & Adams Blvd.
- A2 - (Former) LGBT Church/Synagogue**
SW corner of W. 22nd St. & S. Union Ave.
- A LINE - Adams Blvd./24th Street**
- A3 - Cristo de Arbol de la Calle 22**
NE Corner of Wilmot St. & W. 22nd St.
- A4 - Union Theatre/Velaslavasay Panorama**
1130 W. 24th St.
- A5 - "The Store"**
1130 W. 24th St.
- A6 - Estonian House**
1306 W. 24th St.
- A7 - (Former) Tortilleria Colima**
1342 W. 24th St.
- A8 - Caveman Kitchen /Air Raid Tower**
2215 S. Vermont Ave.
- A9 - Sun Moon Market**
1507 W. 24th St.
- A10 - Greater Page Temple Church**
2610 S. La Salle Ave.
- A11 - Jan's & Co. Antiques/Formal Movie Theater**
1904 W. Adams Blvd.
- A12 - ECF Art Center/Formal Fire Engine House No. 18**
2616 S. Hobart Blvd.
- WESTERN AVENUE WALK**
- W1 - Triangle Church of Religious Science**
1938 S. Western Ave.
- W2 - My Garden LA**
NE corner of S. Western Ave & W. 22nd St.
- W3 - "Villa Maria"/Ramsey-Durfee Estate**
2468 S. St. Andrews Pl.
- W4 - Martin's Fishing Tackle**
2821 S. Western Ave.
- W5 - 30th Street Christian Church**
3000 S. Western Ave.
- W6 - Original Fatburger Location**
NW corner of S. Western Ave. & W. 31st St.
- W7 - (Former) Blue-Bird Laundry**
3570 S. Western Ave.
- A13 - Golden State Mutual Life Insurance**
1999 W. Adams Blvd.
- A14 - First African Methodist Episcopal Church**
2215 S. Vermont Ave.
- A15 - Beckett Residence**
2218 S. Harvard Blvd.
- A16 - Hattie McDaniel House**
2203 S. Harvard Blvd.
- A17 - Dingbat**
2233 S. Hobart Blvd.

- V LINE**
- V1 - Bike Shop**
2408 S. Vermont Ave.
- V2 - "Villa Maria"/Ramsey-Durfee**
2414 S. Vermont Ave.
- V3 - First AME Zion Church**
1449 W. Adams Blvd.
- V4 - Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Temple**
2674 S. Vermont Ave.
- V5 - (Former) Burlap Sack Warehouse**
1412 W. 27th St.
- V6 - Anna's Store**
2769 S. Vermont Ave.
- V7 - Manas Indian Cuisine**
2823 S. Vermont Ave.
- V8 - Leonardo's Vermont Dance Restaurant**
2800 S. Vermont Ave.
- V9 - Socialist Workers Party Headquarters Patsys' Embroidery**
2821 S. Western Ave.
- V10 - Vermont Outlet True Value Hardware**
2929 S. Vermont Ave.
- V11 - (Former) Movie Theater**
2932 S. Vermont Ave.
- V12 - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Former) Bakery, Restaurant, Post Office**
3115 S. Vermont Ave.
- V13 - (Former) Furniture & Upholstery Businesses**
3400 Block of S. Vermont Ave.
- V14 - (Former) Needland's Department Store**
1449 W. Adams Blvd.
- V15 - Hung Sa Dahn**
3421-3 S. Catalina St.
- V16 - Paul Revere Williams Segregation-Era House**
1449 W. Adams Blvd.
- V17 - USC Sophie Davis Art Gallery**
3715 McClintock Ave.
- V18 - (Former) Gas Station**
3771 S. Vermont Ave.
- V19 - Masjid Omar ibin al-Khattab**
1025 W. Exposition Blvd.
- U LINE - Hoover St.**
- U1 - Pete's Burgers**
2400 S. Hoover St.
- U2 - Casa de Rosas**
2600 S. Hoover St.
- U3 - Cockins House**
2653 S. Hoover St.
- U4 - A Big, Beautiful House**
2703 S. Hoover St.
- U5 - Fortmann House**
h2801 S. Hoover St.
- U LINE - 23rd St./Estrella Ave./Washington Blvd.**
- U6 - Lee's Market**
934 W. 23rd St.
- U7 - Apartment House**
2342 Scarff St.
- U8 - St. James Park & Stearns-Dockweiler Mansion**
2800 S. Vermont Ave.
- U9 - Estrella Park**
1900 Block of Estrella Ave.
- U10 - (Former) Undertakers**
721 & 731 W. Washington Blvd.
- U11 - (Former) Movie Theater**
2932 S. Vermont Ave.
- U12 - Groman Mortuaries**
830 W. Washington Blvd.
- U13 - Oddfellows Hall/Vertigo**
855 W. Washington Blvd.
- U14 - Harbor Freeway**
- U15 - Bob Hope Patriotic Hall**
1816 S. Figueroa St.
- U16 - Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC)**
400 W. Washington Blvd.

- ADAMS BOULEVARD WALK**
- AB1 - Hoover Recreation Center**
NE Corner of W. Adams Blvd. & S. Hoover St.
- AB1 - Art of Living Foundation/Second Church of Christ Scientist**
958 W. Adams Blvd.
- AB2 - Mount St. Mary's University**
10 Chester Pl.
- AB3 - Theda Bara House**
649 W. Adams Blvd.
- AB4 - Adams & Figueroa: God & Cars**
Intersection of W. Adams Blvd. & S. Figueroa St.
- AB5 - Harbor Freeway**
Parallel between S. Figueroa St. & Grand Ave.
- TROUSDALE PARKWAY WALK**
- T1 - University Religious Center**
835 W. 34th St.
- T2 - USC Carillon**
3518 Trousdale Pkwy
- T3 - USC Hancock Foundation Building**
3616 Trousdale Pkwy
- T4 - USC Little Chapel of Silence**
650 Childs Way
- T5 - Youth & Science Mural**
3651 Trousdale Pkwy
- T6 - USC Fisher Museum of Art**
823 W. Exposition Blvd.
- T7 - Exposition Park**

A10 DINGBAT

A post-World War II, post-Santa Monica Freeway multi-family replacement of older, large West Adams homes (which can be seen around it). Although this one was not featured, it is the type of housing Ed Ruscha depicted in *Some Los Angeles Apartments*.

U2 CASA DE ROSAS

became the first shelter for unhoused women in Los Angeles. Started by Essie Binkley West, "the Angel of Skid Row," it operated for sixty years. Shuttered, damaged by vandals and an earthquake or so, the Casa de Rosas was renovated and is again serving the community, this time unhoused veterans. The Los Angeles Conservancy recognized its rehabilitation and important use with the 2022 Preservation Award.

For its entire history, the Casa de Rosas has served the community and delighted the eye. Built as a pioneering kindergarten, it later construction on the system continuing. In addition to the A, Velaslavasay Panorama's closest line is the E. The section of the E in the neighborhood opened in 2012, running on the right-of-way of the 1875 Los Angeles and Independence Railroad. Current information on the LA Metro, schedules and forthcoming routes, can be found at WWW.METRO.NET

THE SIGHTS

- ● ● ● ● ● THE SIGHTS
- TRANSFER POINTS
- PAST STREETCAR LINES
- TODAY'S METRO LINES
- E METRO "E" LINE STATION
- A METRO "A" LINE STATION
- VP NEIGHBORHOOD AREA