

January 23, 2025

# City of Sunnyvale Heritage Resource Inventory Update Study Issue # CDD-19-05

Prepared for  
City of Sunnyvale

Prepared by  
Architectural Resources Group

# Agenda

- Project Goals and Current Status
- Overview of the HRI Update Report
  - Historic Context
  - Evaluative Framework
- Findings and Recommendations
- Next Steps



# Project Goals

- Recognize Sunnyvale's role in fostering technological innovations that have influenced life in the Bay Area, California, and beyond.
- Develop a better understanding of the historical events and patterns that have supported Sunnyvale's technological prominence.
- Identify properties associated with significant technological innovation and determine which of those properties still exist.
- Designate properties to the HRI that tell the story of Sunnyvale's contributions to technological innovation.

# Project Status

City Council approval  
of funding  
(2019)

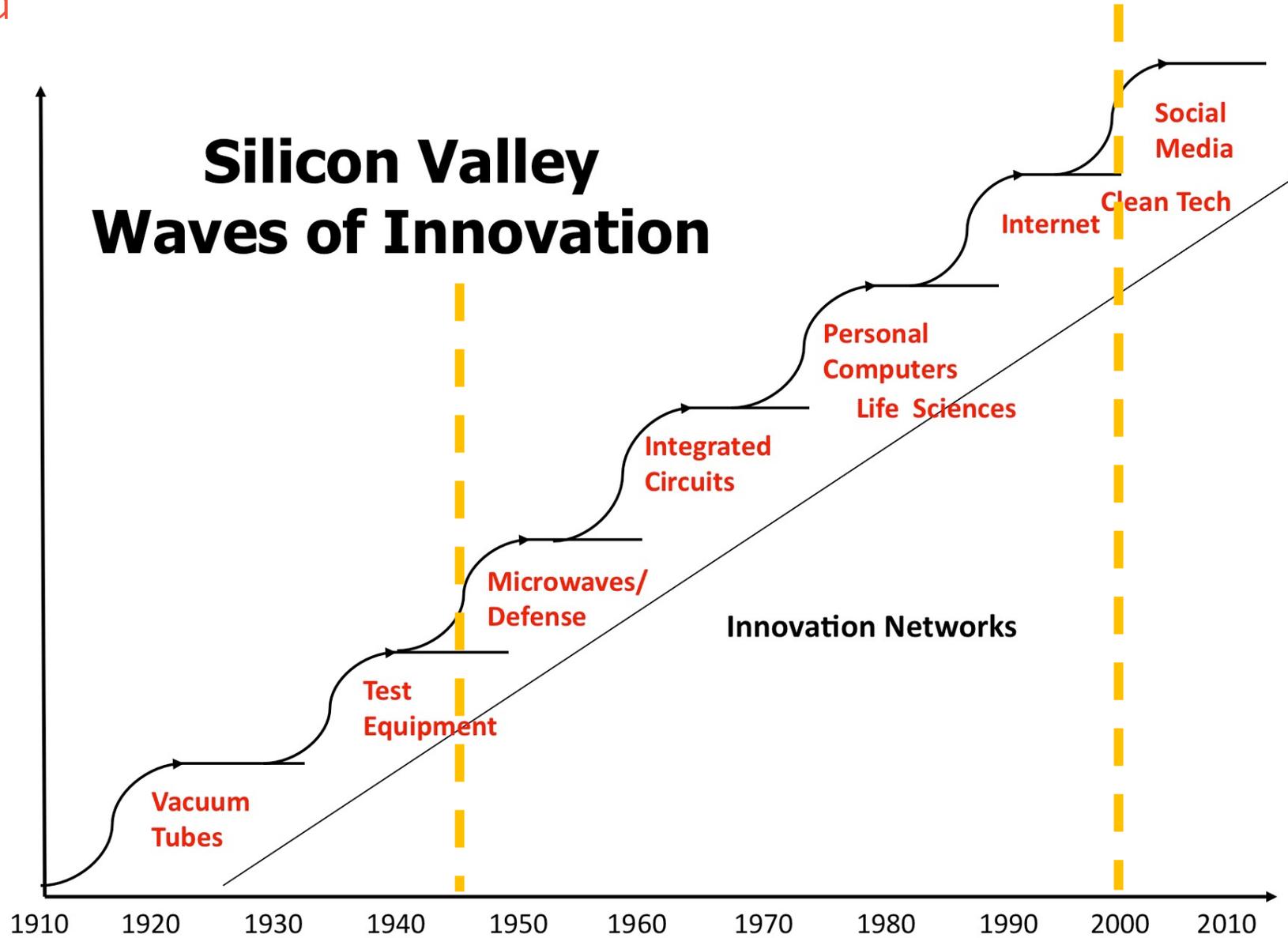
Project kickoff and  
HPC study session  
(1<sup>st</sup> half of 2024)

Background research  
and administrative  
draft of report  
(2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024)

HPC hearing  
(January 2025)



Time Period



Source: Steve Blank

# Overview of Historic Context

- Roots of Innovation
  - Early industry
  - Stanford University and Moffett Field
  - Municipal planning to attract growth
- Sunnyvale in the Early Information Age
  - Regional military presence
  - Industrial and business park development
  - The semiconductor industry
  - The growth of computing



Naval Air Station  
Sunnyvale, 1930s



Amdahl Corp.  
Advertisement

# Overview of Historic Context

- The High-Tech Industry Evolves
  - Atari and video gaming
  - Personal computers and software
  - Patents, spare parts, and new frontiers
  - The changing federal presence
- Networking and the Twenty-First Century
  - Internet technologies
  - Handheld devices
  - The twenty-first century



Atari founders,  
1973



Hubble Space  
Telescope, 1980s

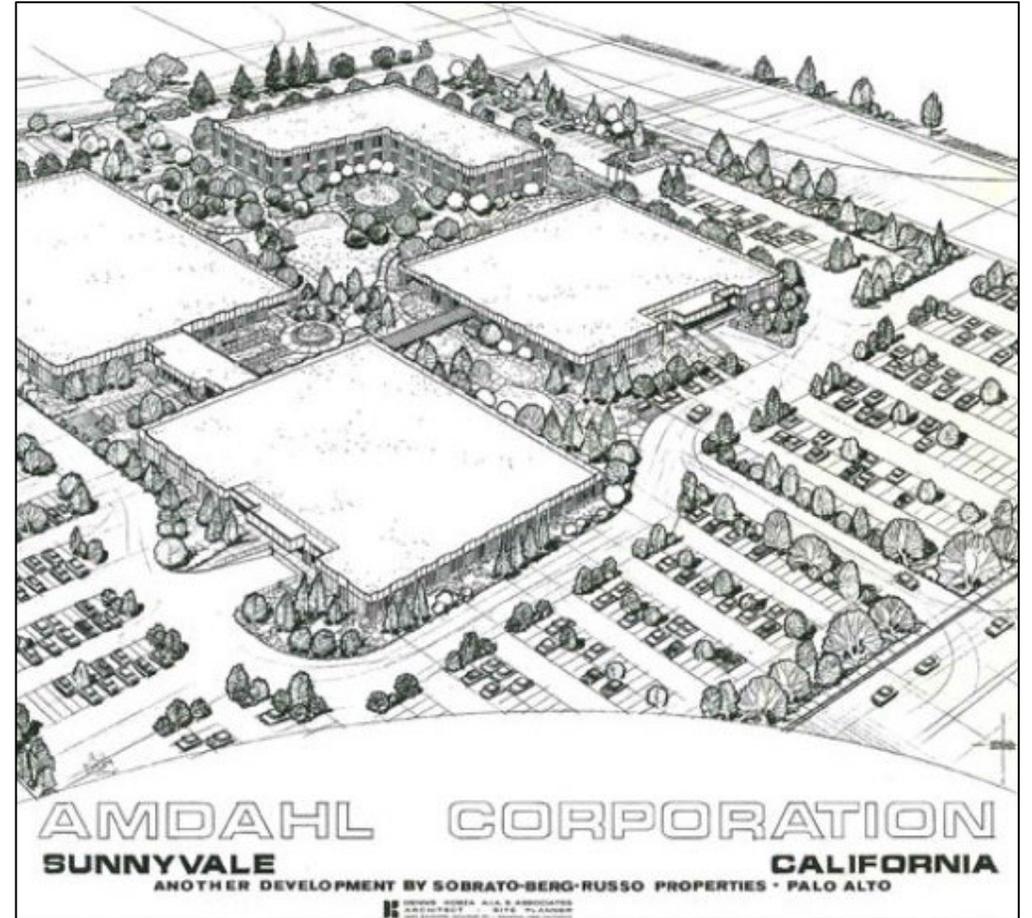
# Evaluative Framework



## Associated Property Types

Purpose-built innovation facilities:

- Office facilities
- Research and development facilities
- Engineering and testing facilities
- Manufacturing and quality control facilities
- Storage and distribution facilities



Amdahl Corporation campus

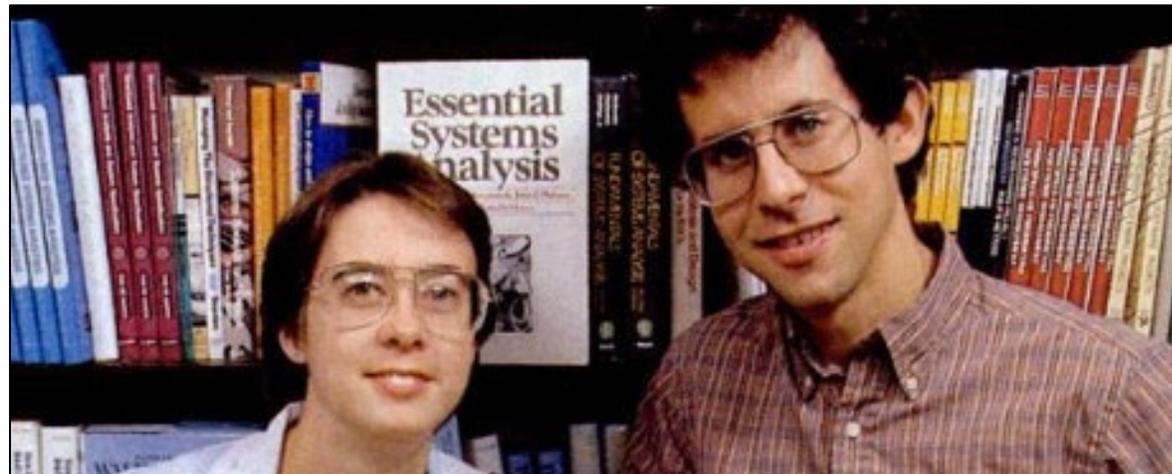
## Associated Property Types

Additional property types:

- Proving grounds
- Support facilities
- Ad hoc sites



Former location  
of Andy Capp's  
Tavern



Computer  
Literacy  
Bookshop  
founders, 1984

## Assessing Significance

### Association with Significant Events:

“Exemplify special elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, architectural, or natural history”

### Considerations:

- What was the influence of the innovation—and did that influence reach beyond the technology industry?
- Was the innovation a component of larger technologies? If so, how critical was it to the success of the technology?
- How directly is the property linked to the innovation?

## Assessing Significance

### Association with Significant Persons:

“Are identified with persons or events significant in local, state, or national history.”

### Considerations:

- How did the individual’s technical or business skills support the innovation?
- Did the person’s achievements occur at the property, as supported by historical evidence?
- Do other properties exist that are more closely associated with that individual’s accomplishments?

## Assessing Integrity

### Considerations:

- Would the property generally be recognizable to someone familiar with its appearance when it achieved significance?
- Are its basic form, scale, materials, and openings still intact?
- Is the property best understood as a “site” that does not rely upon its intact physical characteristics?



Rooster T. Feathers, formerly Andy Capp's Tavern



Lockheed Plant One Complex

# Findings and Recommendations



# Properties Recommended for Heritage Resource Designation

## Amdahl Corporation Headquarters

1250 E. Arques Avenue

Year built: 1974



## Andy Capp's Tavern

157 W. El Camino Real

Year built: 1920



# Properties Recommended for Heritage Resource Designation

Computer Literacy Bookshop	Hotmail Offices
520 Lawrence Expressway, Suite 310	1290 Oakmead Parkway, Suite 218
Year built: 1978	Year built: 1978



# Properties Recommended for Heritage Resource Designation

## Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. Buildings 181N/182N

1233 N. Mathilda Avenue

Year built: 1958



## Sunnyvale Patent Information Clearinghouse

1500 Partridge Ave., Bldg 7

Year built: c.1955-1960



# Properties Recommended for Heritage Resource Designation

## Westinghouse Missile Launching & Handling Dept.

510 E. Hendy Avenue

Year built: 1978



## Yahoo Headquarters

635 Vaqueros Avenue

Year built: 1978



# Significant Properties With Compromised Integrity

## Calma Company Offices

707 Kifer Road

Year built: 1972



## Sunnyvale Air Force Station

1080 Innovation Way

Year built: c.1961-1969



# Significant Properties That Have Been Demolished

## Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. Headquarters

915 De Guigne Drive

Year built: 1970s



## Atari Inc. Headquarters

1265 Borregas Avenue

Year built: 1976



## Significant Properties That Have Been Demolished

Catalyst Technologies Venture Capital Group	Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. Plant One Complex
1287 Lawrence Station Road	1111 Lockheed Martin Way
Year built: c.1970s	Year built: 1956-1965



# Significant Properties That Have Been Demolished

## Signetics Corporation Headquarters

680 W. Maude Avenue

Year built: 1961



## Recommendations

### As Part of This Effort:

- Formally nominate the recommended properties as heritage resources
- Clarify the historic review requirements for heritage resources designated as “sites” due to their diminished physical integrity
- Develop project review requirements tailored to technological properties

## Recommendations

### As Part of Future Efforts:

- Develop strategies for interpretation and education about Sunnyvale's technological history
- Collaborate with technology-related groups to identify additional properties meeting the heritage resource evaluation criteria
- Identify the location of the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company Hubble Telescope Assembly Facility
- Expand the study in the future with information on emerging technological themes and later periods of innovation

# Next Steps

January 2025

Public draft of  
report

Community  
outreach  
meeting

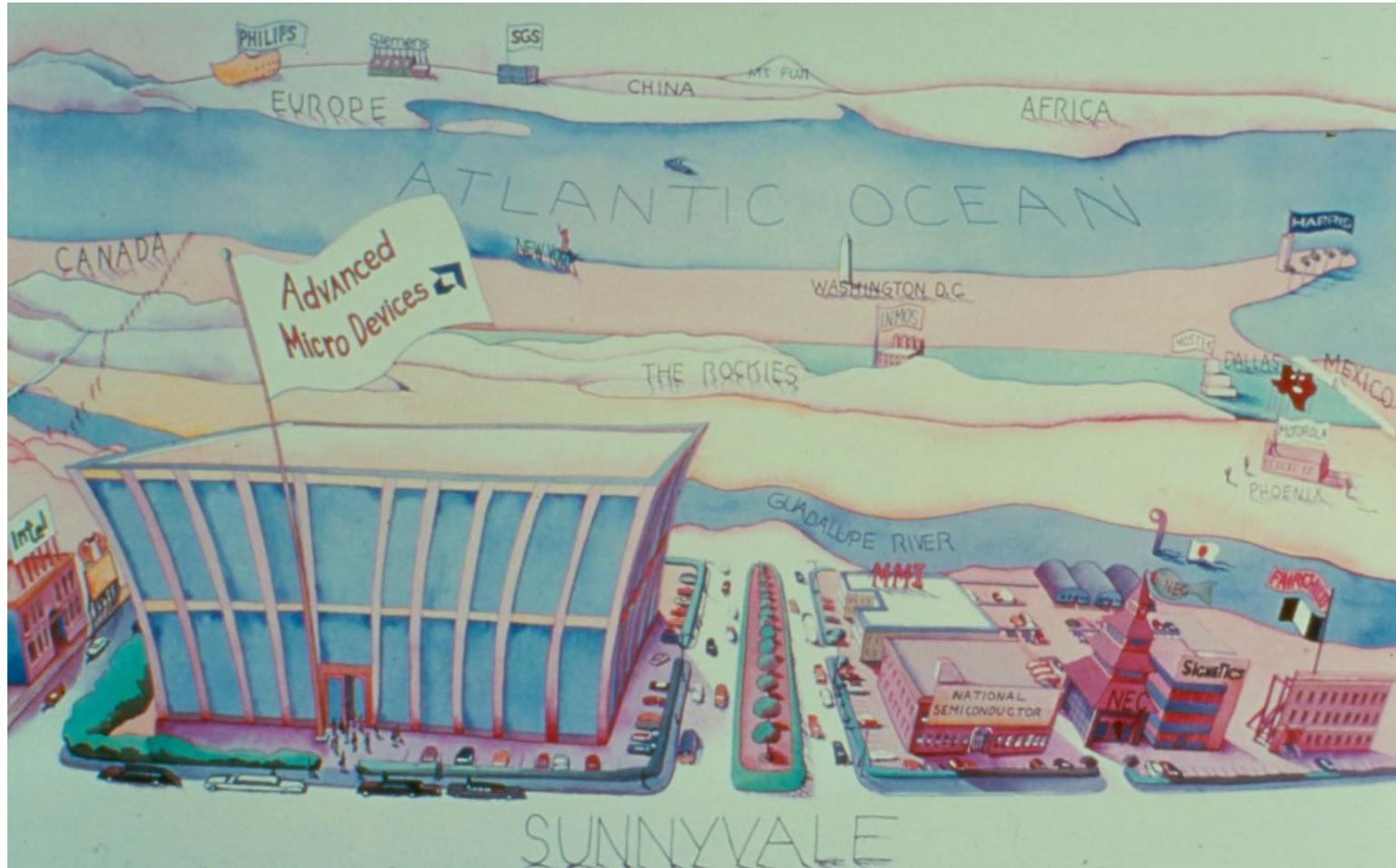
Third HPC  
hearing and  
City Council  
hearing

Final report

# Questions?



# Thank you!



Advanced Micro Devices  
Corporate Graphic