

HP Garage

367 Addison Avenue, Palo Alto, California



◀The architectural rendering of the garage and house show how they will look after restoration to their original construction.



▶The HP Garage is California Historic Landmark No. 976—Birthplace of Silicon Valley. (1939 photo)

History of the Garage

Today, the garage stands behind a Shingle Style, two-story home built for Dr. John C. Spencer about 1905. The exact construction date of the garage is unknown, and while there is no evidence of its presence on insurance maps dated 1908, by 1924 it is clearly denoted on updated documents, as a private garage.

In 1938, Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard decided to “make a run for it” in business. Dave left his job in Schenectady, New York, and returned to Palo Alto while Bill scouted rentals. He found one perfect for their needs on Addison Avenue. Chosen specifically because of a garage he and Dave could use as their workshop, the property also offered a three-room, ground floor flat for Dave and his new wife Lucile and an 8 x 18 foot shed for Bill. They shared the \$45 per month rent.

The garage served as research lab, development workshop and manufacturing facility for early products including the Model 200A audio oscillator. The company, founded in 1939, was named with a coin toss. The garage was soon outgrown and HP moved into larger quarters on Page Mill Road.

The garage was dedicated as the Birthplace of Silicon Valley in 1989, and the property was acquired by HP in 2000. HP is proud to be working closely with the City of Palo Alto to rehabilitate the residence and return the garage and shed to conditions much as they were in 1939. The legacy project is scheduled for completion in 2005.

Please be advised that extensive renovations render the property a construction site and for safety reasons, access is not permitted. Addison Avenue is a residential neighborhood and HP urges you respect the privacy of our neighbors.

Tucked away on a quiet, tree-lined residential street near Stanford University, the HP garage stands today as the enduring symbol of innovation and the entrepreneurial spirit. It was in this humble 12 x 18 foot building that college friends Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard pursued the dream of a company of their own. Guided by an unwavering desire to develop innovative and useful products, the two men blazed a trail at the forefront of the electronics revolution.





◀ The HP property at 367 Addison Avenue in Palo Alto, California, showing the garage and house as they appeared in September 2004.

Garage Timeline

c. 1905 House at 367 (then numbered 369) Addison Ave. is built for Dr. John Spencer, a physician and early mayor of Palo Alto.

1919-1920 The house is divided into two apartments numbered 367 and 369.

1924 The 12 x 18 foot garage first appears on Sanborn Insurance maps of Palo Alto.

1940 Hewlett-Packard Company moves to a larger rented building on Page Mill Road. Dave and Lucile move to the Palo Alto neighborhood of Barron Park.

1985 The garage is designated a City of Palo Alto landmark.

1987 The garage becomes California Registered Landmark No. 976.

2000 HP acquires the Addison Avenue property.

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

1934 Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard graduate from Stanford University.

1935 Dave moves to Schenectady, New York, to work for General Electric. Hewlett remains at Stanford to prepare for graduate work at MIT.

1936 Hewlett completes grad work at MIT and returns to Palo Alto.

1937 Packard visits Hewlett in Palo Alto; they have their first official business meeting.

1938 Packard takes a leave of absence from GE and moves back to Palo Alto with his new wife, Lucile.

The Addison Avenue rental is specifically chosen because it has a garage.

David and Lucille move into the three-room apartment on the first floor (#367) and Bill Hewlett moves into the shed in the back. The landlady, Mrs. Lone Spencer, lives in the upstairs flat at #369.

Bill and Dave begin part-time work in the garage with \$538 in working capital, including the value of Dave's used Sears-Roebuck drill press. They develop numerous products here, including HP's first product, the Model 200A audio-oscillator.

decide the company's name with a coin toss.

After Bill and Flora's marriage, the small bunkhouse becomes the HP business office.

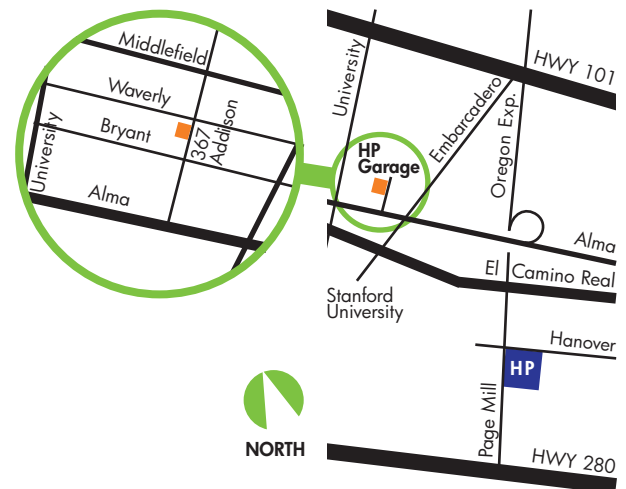


◀ David (Dave) Packard (left) and William (Bill) R. Hewlett. (1939 photo)

1989 Dedication ceremonies are held for the "Birthplace of Silicon Valley."

2004 HP announces plans to renovate and rehabilitate the garage, house and shed at 367 Addison Ave.

HP Garage and Corporate Headquarters



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