

The Evolution of Bunker Hill

PART TWO

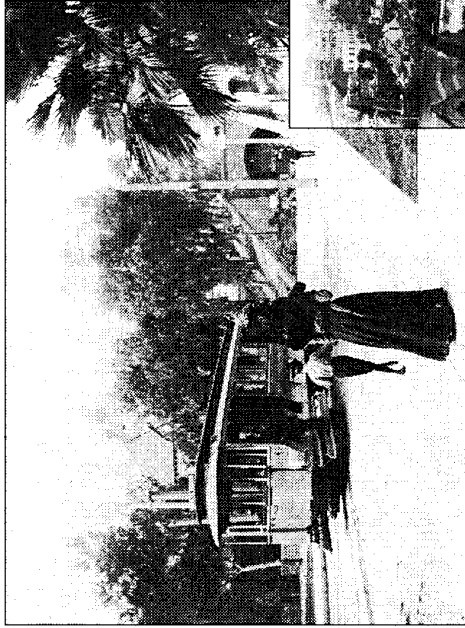
Former Community Redevelopment Agency Principal Planner Yukio Kawaratanani has spent the last few years assembling more than 600 documents, studies, reports and photos relating to the history of Bunker Hill. Parts of these have been turned into the Bunker Hill Historical Presentation, a series of nine

PART TWO OF A NINE-PART SERIES

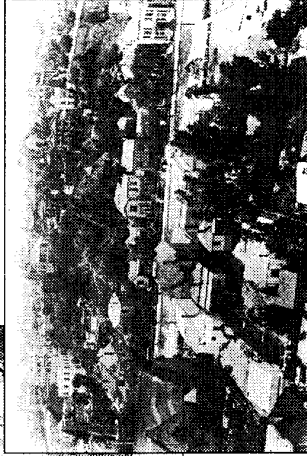
poster-boards detailing distinct chapters in the evolution of the community. The L.A. Downtown News is running excerpts of the text and photo collection.

THE RISE, 1867-1925

Development on steep, barren Bunker Hill started when Los Angeles only had about 5,000 inhabitants. Prudent Beaudry, a prominent entrepreneur who later became mayor, bought at public auction 20 acres of the Hill for speculation. Through his efforts and others, water, streets and a successful subdivision were brought to Bunker Hill. In 1874, he petitioned the city council to name the street at the top Bunker Hill Avenue. With the land sales pitches and the 100th anniversary of the famous battle in Boston, the name gradually became associated with the entire hill. Victorian mansions, apartments and hotels were built primarily in the 1880s and 1890s and made Bunker Hill a fashionable place to live. It was where many of the town's leading doctors, lawyers and merchants constructed their mansions and raised their families. The hotels, like the 200-room Melrose, were luxurious and elegant places to hold Downtown society gatherings and celebrations. The prominent Hill, rising over 100 feet in the air, provided a splendid view overlooking Downtown, farms along the river and far into the countryside. But the Hill was a physical barrier inhibiting Downtown's expansion to the west. In 1901 quaint Angels Flight funicular, constructed by entrepreneur Col. Eddy, provided a convenient access up and down the Hill. The Third and Second Street tunnels, bored through the Hill, provided

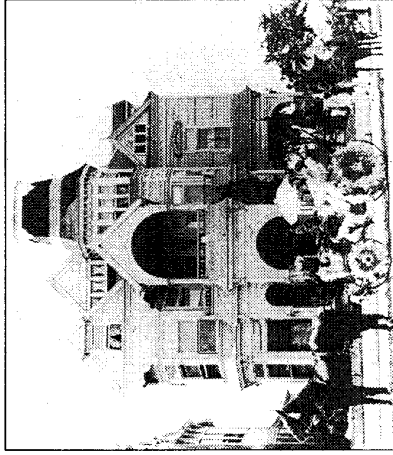


Security Pacific Collection/Los Angeles Public Library
Street car at Third and Hill streets.

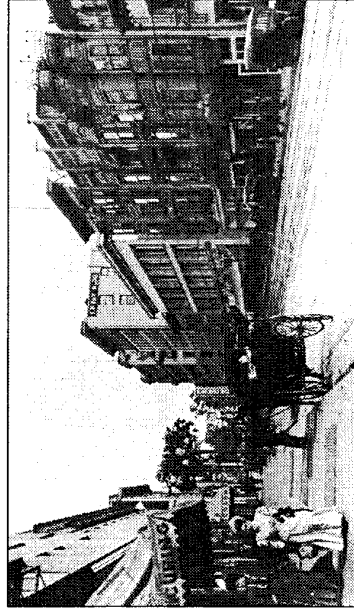


Security Pacific Collection/Los Angeles Public Library

Bunker Hill in the 1890s, Hill between Second and Third streets.



Security Pacific Collection/Los Angeles Public Library
The Bunker Hill home known as The Castle.



Security Pacific Collection/Los Angeles Public Library
Hill Street at Fourth Street.

Downtown with improved access to housing developments to the west. The Hollywood route of the "Red Car" also arrived at the Fourth and Hill terminal by way of a subway tunnel under Bunker Hill. During the first quarter of the century, as Downtown land values rose, many of the homes and mansions were replaced by more profitable commercial, hotel and apartment structures that completed the rise of Bunker Hill.

To see previous installments of "The Evolution of Bunker Hill" visit the L.A. Downtown News website at www.LADowntownNews.com

Next week: The Decline, 1926-1944

Beauty Buys Twenty Acres	Water System & Streets Installed	Homes & Mansions Building Period	Commercial Hotels & Apartments Era	Angels Flight & Third Street Tunnel	Intensive Commercial & Apartment Building	Second Street & P.E. Subway Tunnel
1867	1871-74	1880s	1890s	1901	1902-25	1924-25