



HOLLYWOOD PARK RACETRACK (1938-2013)

Hollywood Park was built by the Hollywood Turf Club. It was one of the first racetracks designed by Arthur Froelich who went onto an illustrious career as a racetrack architect. During its 75-year existence the Track closed twice. During World War II, it was used for a storage facility, reopening after the war ended. In 1949 the Grandstand and Club House were destroyed by a fire; the track was rebuilt and reopened in 1960. It was expanded in 1984.

In its heyday, the Hollywood Park was a magnet for Hollywood celebrities, many of whom were on its board including Jack Warner, Walt Disney, Samuel Goldwin, Darryl Zanuck, Al Jolson and Bing Crosby.

There were many famous races run there including the inaugural Breeders Cup in 1984. Many horses such as Seabiscuit, Seattle Slew, and Affirmed ran the track.

Racing became considerably less popular as a leisure activity. By the 90's a casino was added. The Track was sold several times to a variety of owners,

Original Architect

Arthur Froelich

Turf Club Architect

Stiles O. Clements

Landscape Architect

Frederick Barlow, Jr

Landscape Architect

Edward Huntsman-Trout

1050 South Prairie Avenue
Inglewood, California



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A new retail and residential development which will bring 3000 housing units, a hotel and a park to the 260 acre site is currently under construction. Each of whom had a different recipe for reinvigorating it. Nothing really took. Finally in 2013 it was shuttered for good. Over 13,000 people attended the last race making it the largest attendance in years. There were so many people trying to get in, that the gates were opened to everyone after 2pm. The final stakes race was won by California Chrome. The crowd sang 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'Hooray for Hollywood' as the horses paraded in.

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Arthur Froehlich

Arthur Froehlich was born in 1909 in Los Angeles; his father was a cattle and dairy farmer. He attended the University of California. His first job was as a draftsman for the structural engineer working on Santa Anita racetrack. That sparked an architectural practice designing racetracks. In addition to Hollywood Park, they include Aqueduct Racetrack (1958) in New York, Belmont Park (1967) in New York (a job he won over Frank Lloyd Wright's NY office), Keeneland in Kentucky, Golden Gate Fields, Garden State Park and the Hipodromo La Rinconada National Track (1959) in Caracas.



Stiles O. Clements

Architect Stiles O. Clements was very influential in creating some of the iconic Los Angeles Art Deco buildings of the 20's. He designed the El Capitan (1926), Mayan (1927), Leimert (1931) and Wiltern Theaters (1931). Towers include the Pellissier Building (1931) and the Richfield Tower (1929). A lot of his work was demolished such as the streamline Moderne Coulter's Department Store (1938) which was destroyed before it could be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Frederick Barlow, Jr.

After studying landscape design at UC Berkeley, Fred Barlow moved to Los Angeles and lived in Baldwin Village for about 30 years. He formed a practice with Katherine Bashford except for a 2-year sojourn at the National Park Service. In addition to the Racetrack, he designed the landscape for over 40 housing developments.



Top Photo & Previous page : Club ca 1960

Middle Photo: Fire May 5, 1949

Bottom Photo: Aerial May 1977

Next Page: May 1977

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Edward Huntsman-Trout

Edward Huntsman-Trout was one of the pioneers of Landscape Architecture in Los Angeles. He lived from 1889-1974. Some of his significant projects include Bullocks Wilshire, the LA County Arboretum and Botanic Garden (1955) and the 30 acre campus for Scripps College (1926).