The Earthquake of 1906

Although the physical destruction to the Stanford campus from the 1906 earthquake rose the resolve of the young university to rebuild. Though far from the total "Destruction of Great Stanford University" that was reported in the newspapers of the day, the campus did suffer tremendous damage. While most buildings of the inner Quad survived, Memorial Church was almost completely destroyed. The newly built Library and Gymnasium. On the day of the earthquake, President David Starr Jordan remarked, "For the past seven years Stanford has been completing the magnificent group of buildings as planned by the founders. There is now nothing to do but to go over it again…Our great ambitions for Stanford as a University may rest a while, until we can save the money for building again and until our own alumni are old enough and rich enough to come to our rescue."

It took many years to recover from the earthquake, and some buildings including the Library, Gymnasium, and Memorial Arch were never rebuilt. It was over time Stanford recovered, and many would argue that the campus architecture improved with the rebuilding. Moreover, the experience spawned a new resolve and identity for the university. As today, the University is a role model in the practice of voluntary earthquake hazard mitigation and emergency preparedness.

We invite you to enjoy this earthquake walking tour of the campus to learn about what happened on the morning of April 18, 1906 and how the university continues to evolve in response to the ever-present risk of earthquakes.

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For more information, please see quake06.stanford.edu/walkingtour.html

Quake '06

Centennial Walking Tour

Stanford University
opportUnity and rebirth: Cantor Arts Center

post DeStrUCtion deCiSionS: Old Chemistry Building

earthQUake impaCtS on prestige: Memorial Arch & Agassiz Statue

repair of monumentS: Memorial Church

earthQUake eConomiCS: Green Library

earthQUake and student life: Encina Hall

Plate Tectonics & Seismic hazards: Stock Farm Monocline

Evolution of Codes: Mitchell Earth Sciences

Academic Contributions: John A. Blume Earthquake Engineering Center

Evolution of Engineering Methods: Main Quadrangle

Earthquake Economics: Green Library

Emergency Preparedness & Response: Lifeline Systems