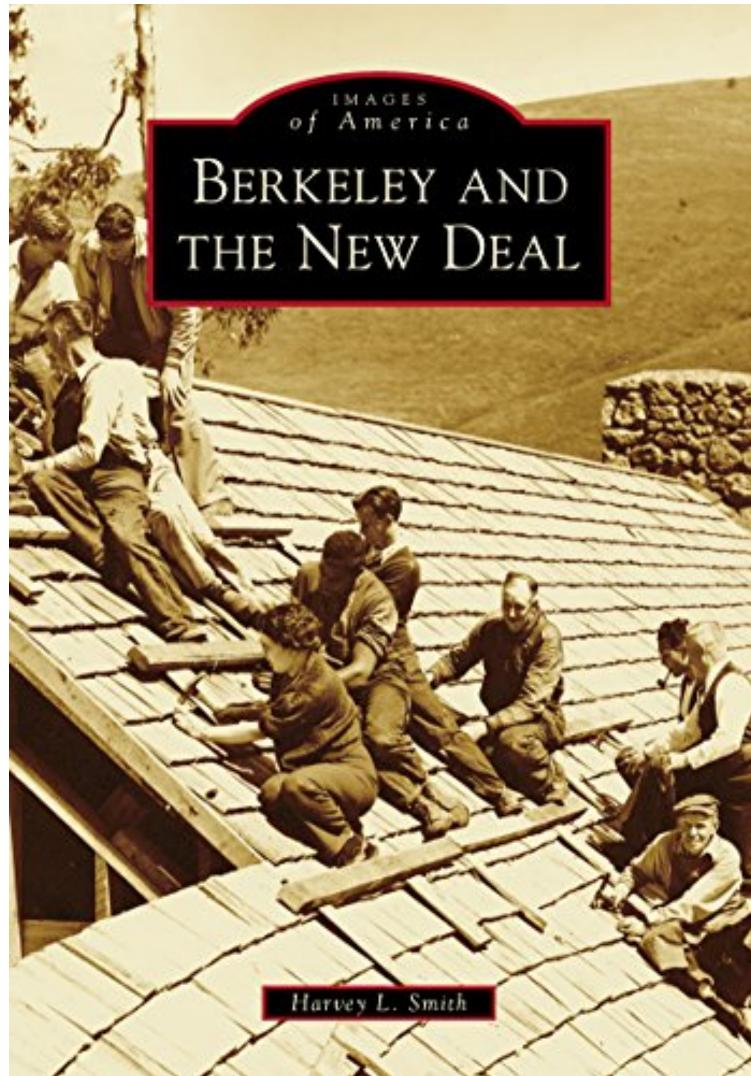


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Berkeley and the New Deal (Images of America)

Harvey L. Smith

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Harvey L. Smith : Berkeley and the New Deal (Images of America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Berkeley and the New Deal (Images of America):

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An eye openerBy Martin Every town should have a book like this. Illuminates a part of history that most people benefit from every day, but aren't at all aware of. The author deserves profound thanks for the research, photography, and writing that went into this book3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Despite the economic hardships and uncertainties of the Great Depression, government agencies like the Works Progress AdministraBy susan ivesHarvey Smith's well-researched book, "Berkeley and the New Deal," includes narrative, interviews, and a trove of historic photos. During the Great Depression, federally funded programs provided millions of jobs for unemployed Americans in every part of the country. At a time of economic crisis and

uncertainty, American workers hired by New Deal agencies like the Works Progress Administration and Federal Art Project strove to create lasting and glorious public spaces--theaters, schools, parks, post offices and civic buildings--many adorned with murals, sculptures, and mosaics. Smith offers many stunning examples in Berkeley-- emblematic of the thousands of New Deal projects still in use in cities and towns across America. The book is testimony to what can be achieved when America invests in its own. "Berkeley and the New Deal" is a must read for Berkeleyans, UC alums, and those interested in the New Deal--a time that, despite the hardships--is today widely regarded as an American cultural renaissance

Berkeley's 1930s and early 1940s New Deal structures and projects left a lasting legacy of utilitarian and beautiful infrastructure. These public buildings, schools, parks, and artworks helped shape the city and thus the lives of its residents; it is hard to imagine Berkeley without them. The artists and architects of these projects mention several themes: working for the community, responsibility, the importance of government support, collaboration, and creating a cultural renaissance. These New Deal projects, however, can be called "hidden history" because their legacies have been mostly ignored and forgotten. Comprehending the impact of the New Deal on one American city is only possible when viewed as a whole. Berkeley might have gotten a little more or a little less New Deal funding than other towns, but this time it was "Bekeley"; but very much typical and mainstream. More than history, this book shows the period's relevance to today's social, political, and economic realities. The times may again call for comprehensive public policy that reaches Main Street.

About the AuthorHarvey L. Smith has been researching this part of Berkeley's history for more than two decades. The images in this volume have been selected from local and national archives and from the author's contemporary photographs of the living legacy of the New Deal.