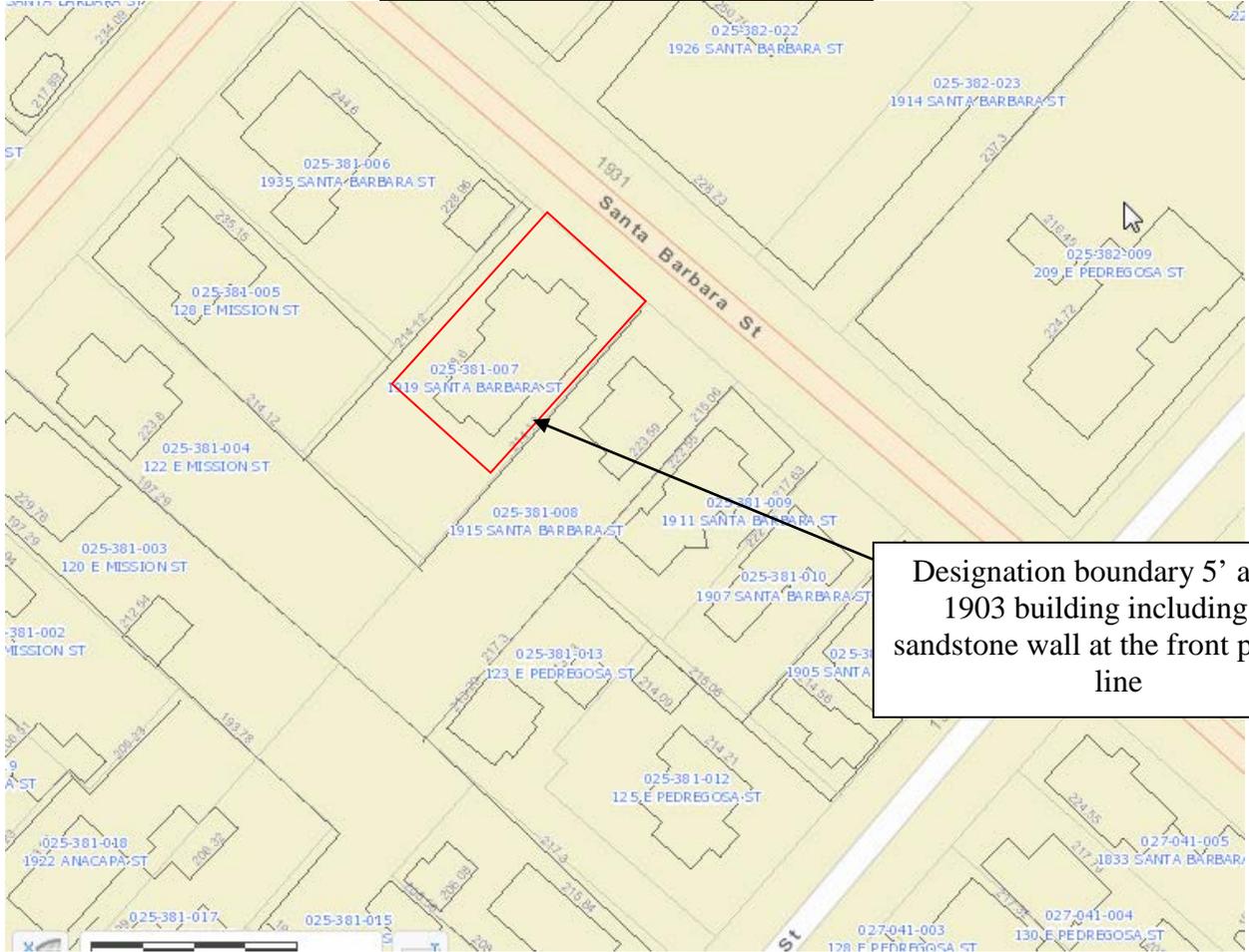


**HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION  
STRUCTURE OF MERIT DESIGNATION  
STAFF REPORT  
THE ANDERSON HOUSE, VERNACULAR AMERICAN FOURSQUARE STYLE RESIDENCE  
1919 SANTA BARBARA STREET  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA  
APN 025-381-007**

**July 27, 2016**



Site Plan of 1919 Santa Barbara Street



Designation boundary 5' around 1903 building including the sandstone wall at the front property line

## Significance

The City of Santa Barbara establishes historic significance as provided by the Municipal Code, Section 22.22.040. Any historic building that meets one or more of the eleven criteria (Criteria A through K) established for a City Landmark or a City Structure of Merit can be considered significant. It is the opinion of the Historic Landmarks Commission Designations Subcommittee that the building is an excellent candidate for Structure of Merit designation per the following criteria:



*The exposed rafter tails under the wide overhanging eaves and pairs of porch columns are craftsman elements in the design. Photo taken June 2016*

***Criterion A. Its character, interest or value as a significant part of the heritage of the City, the State or the Nation***

The house at 1919 Santa Barbara Street was constructed in 1903. As per the 1903 building permit, the original owner was Chas Anderson and the builder was noted as Bond and Foss. The house was designed in a vernacular form of the American Foursquare style with Craftsman elements.

The American Foursquare was a rare style in Santa Barbara and few examples are in the City. As a unique example of the American Foursquare in Santa Barbara, the house at 1919 Santa Barbara Street contributes to the architectural repertoire of the city and qualifies for listing as a City of Santa Barbara Structure of Merit under Criterion A.

***Criterion D. Its exemplification of a particular architectural style or way of life important to the City, the State, or the Nation***

The house exemplifies a vernacular form of the American Foursquare style. The American Foursquare is a purely American house style popular from the late 1890s to 1915, and faded from fashion after World War I. A reaction to the ornate and mass-produced elements of the Victorian and other Revival styles popular throughout the last half of the 19th century, the American Foursquare was plain, often incorporating handcrafted "honest" woodwork (unless purchased from a mail-order catalog). This style incorporates elements of the Prairie School and the Craftsman styles. It is also sometimes called the Transitional Period.

The style originated in Chicago and became very popular in other large mid-western cities.



*The ashlar cut sandstone wall offers high quality craftsman ship and material to the Santa Barbara streetscape. Photo taken June 2016*

The style, in its vernacular form, was spread throughout the country by pattern books published in the Midwest. The Foursquare was a popular mail-order era style along with the California bungalow. When one was ordered, it came in a boxcar with a book of directions and all the parts pre-cut and numbered for self-assembly. The hallmarks of the style include a basically square, boxy design, and a large front porch with wide stairs, a low hipped roof, echoed by a hipped roof porch and boxed eaves. The Anderson house at 1919 Santa Barbara Street is an American Foursquare that integrates a variety of elements from other styles, like stucco siding of the Prairie Box style and exposed rafter tails and clustered porch posts of the Craftsman Style. The porch has its original wood porch floor and sandstone steps leading to a wide pane over panel door with classical detailing and a unique, smaller matching pane over panel side fixed door that has been in place prior to 1938. The front elevation has two large window openings holding large, wood, fixed windows in horizontal, rectangular openings, while the south elevation has a bay window with wood, double-hung windows with ogee lugs. Because the Anderson house exemplifies a vernacular American Foursquare architectural style and is illustrative of the development of Santa Barbara's residential neighborhoods during the early-twentieth century, it is eligible for listing as a City of Santa Barbara Structure of Merit under Criterion D.

***Criterion G. Its embodiment of elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials and craftsmanship***

The house embodies the following elements that demonstrate an outstanding attention to design, detail, materials, and craftsmanship: wood, double hung windows with ogee lugs; the wide pane over panel front door; the exposed rafter tails under the eaves, triple sets of columns on the porch, and wide sandstone porch steps, foundation wall, and wall at the front property line. Because the house demonstrates these outstanding elements, it qualifies as a Structure of Merit under Criterion G.



*The south side elevation features a bay window with wood, double hung windows with ogee lugs. Photo taken June 2016*

## Historic Integrity

The house at 1919 Santa Barbara Street has a high degree of integrity to convey its original appearance in the vernacular American Foursquare style. The house also contributes to the visual integrity of the surrounding neighborhood, which is primarily residential in character, encompassing a range of architectural styles from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries including Victorian, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Craftsman on large lots. The house retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, allowing it to convey its original appearance.

## Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Historic Landmarks Commission adopt a resolution to designate the Anderson House at 1919 Santa Barbara Street as a Structure of Merit, with the designation boundary being 5' around the 1903 building including the sandstone wall at the front property line.

## Attachments

1. (Draft) Resolution to designate
2. Mills Act Program Ten-Year Restoration Plan



*The wide front door with pane over panel expresses excellent craftsmanship. Photo taken June 2016*