

**HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE REPORT**

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**431 East Micheltorena Street
Santa Barbara, California**

Designation

Status: Listed on the Potential Historic Resources List

Assessor Parcel

Number: 027-252-028

Constructed: c. 1920

Property Description:

The one-story Craftsman bungalow has low pitched front facing gable with wide overhanging eaves with large knee braces and a decorative grill in the open gable. The exterior walls have narrow wood clapboard siding. The full width front porch has four beveled tapered columns and the molding of the porch slightly curves at the ends and a low wood clad wall surrounds the porch. The main entrance is centered in between two large wood windows with a divided light transoms.



Architect: Unknown

Architectural Style: Craftsman

Property Type: Residential

Original Use: Residential

Significance: The Historic Landmarks Commission listed the property on the Potential Historic Resources List in 2014 when the Lower Riviera Survey determined they were eligible as Structures of Merit. The City of Santa Barbara establishes historical 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. The structure may be significant as a Structure of Merit per the following criteria:

Historic Integrity: The Craftsman style house retains many character-defining original materials. The building's original design and wood siding are intact, as are the decorative grill in the gable and the tapered columns, and the triangular knee braces. The building retains enough of its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, that it conveys its original c.1920 appearance.



Criterion D. Its exemplification of a

particular architectural style or way of life important to the City, the State or the Nation: The house was designed in the Craftsman style. Craftsman style homes are known for their intimate scale and intricate wooden details gently layered over wood clapboards, shingles, stone, and bricks. Their porches turn back time while providing a gentle transition between the outside world and cozy spaces inside. The Craftsman houses are uniquely American creations that began to appear around 1905 in Southern California. They are a fusion of wooden Asian architectural details, the English Arts and Crafts movement, and an innovative California spirit. Mastered by the Greene brothers, whose landmark Gamble House still stands as a masterpiece of the ideals that the Craftsman style promoted, the fashion translated to all scales of home building. These houses became extraordinarily popular throughout the U.S. during the first 30 years of the 20th century. Pattern books and periodicals furthered the study of the architecture; even kits to build an entire house could be ordered and delivered to building sites.

The low pitched gable roof, triangular knee braces under the wide overhanging eaves with decorative grill in the gable, the full width front porch with the tapered columns, slightly arching porch beam and wood windows with divided light transoms are character defining features of the design that exemplify the simple intricacy of the Craftsman style. Because the bungalow exemplifies the Craftsman 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 or craftsmanship: The residence embodies the following elements that demonstrate an outstanding attention to design, detail, materials, and craftsmanship:

- Wide overhanging eaves with large knee braces and a decorative grill in the open gable.

- The full width front porch has four beveled tapered columns and the molding of the porch slightly curves at the ends and a low wood clad wall surrounds the porch.
- The main entrance is centered in between two large wood windows with a divided light transoms.