

HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE REPORT
Prepared by Nicole Hernandez, MFA, City Architectural Historian
612 East Micheltorena Street
Santa Barbara, California

Designation Status: Listed on the Potential Historic Resources List

Assessor Parcel Number: 029-033-003

Constructed: c. 1915

Property Description: The one-and-a-half story Craftsman bungalow has two low pitched front facing gables with wide overhanging eaves with knee braces and a decorative grill in the gable. The exterior walls have narrow wood clapboard siding. The partial width front porch with narrow wood corner posts and a railing with wide wood posts has a large wood triangularly arched heavy beam giving attention to the entry. The wide solid wood front door has a single pane in the upper register. Fenestration is comprised of a combination of wood, fixed multi-paned windows and double-hung sash windows. Entry door has large single pane in upper register. A triptych window of three uniquely divided light casement windows is centered under the front facing gable. The window on the porch has divided lights over a single pane.

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 it was 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 retains enough of its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, that it conveys its original c.1915 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 roofs, knee braces under the wide overhanging eaves, the partial, deep front porch with triangular heavy beams defining the entrance 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.

The house is within the Lower Riviera Neighborhood, which developed during the period between circa 1900 and 1940. Modest, usually one-story houses, designed in a range of architectural styles including National Folk, Craftsmen and Period Revival characterize the neighborhood.

City Directory:

1911: no listing

1915: W. W. Bethell, carpenter

1920: F. J. Somerville, clerk

1926-45: C. A. Forward (owner), salesman

1951-56: Mrs. Dora Gutierrez (owner), widow of A. R. Gutierrez