LAFAYETTE HISTORIC DISTRICT

This unique residential district is an excellent example of Spanish Colonial architecture and is unusual in its design. Comprised of four buildings, each housing three dwelling units, this district combines elements of the triplex and the bungalow court to create a housing style unique in the City. Bungalow courts represent a housing style which typifies the development of Southern California and this example is a rare variation on that theme.
This is one of 12 units facing two driveways, with three units in each row. All have a Spanish Colonial character, with variations on that theme. All are split level, with a single-car garage below the second story. These six on the north end are constructed of poured-in-place concrete and have tapered round chimneys. The two-story section at the back is capped with a flat roof, trimmed with a row of red tiles, and a small tower, accented with vigas. A large shed-style roof, clad in red clay tiles forms the front half of the house. The front facade is centered with the tapered chimney, which is clad in stucco, and flanked by pairs of recessed, multi-paned French doors. A red tile clad shed-style roof shelters the rustic wood front door, which faces the driveway. Concrete grillwork covers the window beside the front door. An aluminum window replaces the original recessed window centered in the second story facade. A Spanish-style grill accents the small arched window beside the garage. The garage door has been bricked in, with a small window in the center.

Unit B is very similar to Unit A, except the plan is reversed. The original garage door, with a flattened arch at the top, is still in place. A concrete planter border is embedded with rows of small river rocks. Unit C is a reverse plan of Unit A. The original front door has been removed and replaced with a recessed multi-paned window. The new entrance is located in the shed-style addition on the west side. The addition is stucco-clad and capped with a red-tile-clad roof, to match the original. The new door is arched, recessed, and accented with an arched stained glass window. A slightly larger matching stained glass window is located to the east of the door, and a terra cotta sun god medallion has been placed above. A red brick threshold and steps is located in front of the window. Even though this house has been moderately altered, it still fits the basic architectural character of the court and contributes visually to the group.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Built in 1925 by H. L. Kerr, these six "bungalows" were unusual in design, size, and attention to detail. The six along the north road are constructed of poured-in-place concrete, while those on the southern-most road are frame with stucco cladding. Don G. Orlapp was the contractor. These bungalows were popular with studio workers for many years. During the 1930's Betty Newby, an elocution teacher, lived in Unit A. Hattie and J. C. Carter, a studio worker also lived there in the 30's. In the 1930's E. T. Urban, a salesman, and his wife, Capitola, lived in Unit B. L.A. Ebert lived in Unit C in the 1930's.

By 1954 Charles Frannell was the owner of the court. Because this is a very good and unusual example of a bungalow court in the Spanish Colonial style, these buildings appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
Unit B

Unit C
DESCRIPTION:

Unit A is the front unit of the second row of bungalows, all of which were built in 1925. These 6 were all built of poured-in-place concrete and were identical except for reversed floor plans. All are split level, with a dramatic balcony and balustrade running from front to back, where the two levels meet. In Unit A the original garage space and door has been converted to living space; wide rustic ship lap boards, centered with a multi-paned aluminum window, fill in where the garage door was located.

Unit B is a reverse plan of both Unit A and C. It has the same architectural elements as the other 5 bungalows and retains its original planked garage door. A recessed, three-sectioned window centered above the garage door is original and even uses the original wood-framed screens. On the east side a pair of valances and suashades have been added to the exterior of the windows on each side of the tapered stucco-clad chimney.

Unit C conforms to the plan of Unit A and retains most of its architectural character, including the original garage door. Single garages were the norm in the 1920's. By 1925, when these bungalows were built, the car had taken its place as an important part of the daily life of urban Americans. Very few families, with the exception of the very wealthy, had two cars until the late 1940's and early 50's.

SIGNIFICANCE:

During the 1930's W. G. and Helen Wallace lived in Unit A. He, like so many other Culver City residents, was listed as a tradesman. Theo Stevens was among the persons living in Unit B in the 1930's. These buildings are significant for their picturesque Spanish architectural character.
ADDRESS:  
4068 ABC  
LAFAYETTE PLACE

DATE:  
1925

STYLE:  
SPANISH COLONIAL COURT

SOURCE:  
RATING:  
P  
A+

ALTERATIONS:  
F

RESIDENCE:  
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

The south half of this 12-bungalow court is constructed of frame and stucco instead of poured-in-place concrete. The floor plan and most of the exterior architectural elements are very similar to the north half. The flat roofs, with square towers on the inside corner, are trimmed in red clay tile and the adjacent shed style roof is clad in red clay tile. The windows beside the front doors are recessed and multi-paned, with an arch at the top, instead of cast concrete grill coverings. The doors are of rustic wood. The garage has been expanded with a stucco-clad rectangle and a row of tiles across the top of the expansion.

Unit B is the opposite floor plan of Unit A. It has the same architectural elements, and even has a matching garage extension. The cars of the 20's and 30's were smaller than those of the 40's, 50's, and 60's and few families had more than one. By 1940 the cars were too long for the old garages, so it was commonplace to add onto the front or back of the garage.

Unit C is the opposite of Unit B, but has all of the same architectural elements, except the front door. A small eye-level window, with a decorative grill, and a row of molding close to the outside edges accent the door of Unit C. The garage extension is the same as that of Units A and B.

SIGNIFICANCE:

One of the occupants of unit A in the 1930's was Mrs. M. V. Bell. She had the unusual occupation of president and manager of Culver City Fireworks Inc., located at 1015 Washington Blvd. Mrs Minnettee Ginn, a studio worker lived in unit B in the 1930's. F. L Hunt was one of several early occupants of the unit C bungalow. Mr. G. Clini was the owner in the 1940's and in the 1960's Sara Sue Sears used it as a sculpture studio. The buildings retain much of their architectural character and are unusually large illustrating a good attention to detail.
Unit B

Unit C
ADDRESS:
4070 ABC
LAFAYETTE PLACE

DATE:
1925

STYLE:
SPANISH COLONIAL COURT

SOURCE: RATING:
P A+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

The large tapered stucco-clad chimney on the front of the Spanish Colonial bungalow shown here dominates the facade. Pairs of French doors flank the chimney. As in the other 12 units, the front door, sheltered by a red-tile-clad portico, faces the driveway/courtyard. This house has a garage extension that matches the others on the southern half of the court. Unit B is the reverse plan of Unit A. It retains much of its original Spanish Colonial architecture, but is perhaps the weakest contributor because of the enclosure and extension of the original garage. Unit C has the same configuration as Unit A, and is the only unit of the southern set of 6 to have its original garage door. The paneled rustic wood adds to the Spanish Colonial ambiance of the bungalow. This picture presents a good view of the trio of 3-light windows that are centered in the second floor facades, above the garages.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Milford and Laura Cline have owned four of these units since the 1930's. They live in this bungalow and rent the others out. Before retiring, he was a stoneworker. Hannah Lindlof was among the occupants in 1937. John Baker was the owner in the 1940's. Each of the 12 bungalows in a contributor to the site as a whole. A. J. Hodgetts, a stoneworker, lived in Unit B in the 1930's. These units are representative of California architecture and contrasted sharply with the more traditional homes being built in the rest of the country. The houses are graceful and informal with a romantic interior balcony. This court is unusual because of the size and architectural character of the separate units.
ADDRESS:  
4114 LAFFAYETTE PLACE

DATE: 
1920

STYLE: 
SPANISH COLONIAL COURT

SOURCE: RATING: 
P B

ALTERATIONS: 
F

RESIDENCE: 
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

The Spanish Colonial duplex on the south side of this double lot was built in 1920 and the matching duplex on the north side in 1923. They were joined at that time by a common parapet which arches above the walkway to the courtyard between the duplexes. The flat-roofed units are fronted with a modified crenelated parapet, partly trimmed with a row of red clay tiles across the top. All of the front doors open off of the courtyard and the identical front facades feature a picture window topped with a multi-paned transom and multi-paned sidelights. Open wingwalls extend from each end of the parapet. Small graduated porticos shelter the doors along the courtyard. The wooden garage in the rear was built in 1924.

SIGNIFICANCE:

C. E. Dooley built these duplexes. Some of the people who lived here in the 1930's were Les and Millie Tronsler, Edwin and Ruby Tulp (he was a driver), Alex Shaffer, a studiowerker, and his wife Gertrude, and Mrs. J. M. Rix and her son, Laurence, also a studiowerker. Charles Kersey owned the court during the 1950's. This type of court was a sharp contrast to the multi-family living units found in the East. New arrivals from those areas particularly enjoyed the convenience of the bungalow court. It allowed the occupants to enjoy the wonders of California weather and live in close proximity to the out-of-doors, yet not have the upkeep of a large yard. Such courts are considered significant because they are so representative of the California atmosphere.
ADDRESS:
4125
LAFAYETTE PLACE

DATE:
1922

STYLE:
SPANISH COLONIAL COURT

SOURCE:  RATING:
P     B

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:
This building has a more formal facade than most of the Spanish Colonial courts. With its symmetrical stepped parapet and squared stucco walls, the court has a proper look. The four front doors face on the courtyard, which is entered through an large rectangular opening between the two buildings. Red-clay-tile hoods crown the matching windows in each half of the front facade. The sets consist of plate glass windows, topped with multi-paned transoms, and flanked by 6-over-6 double-hung windows on each side. Squared wingwalls extend to each side. The doors, facing on the courtyard, are sheltered by small arched porticos. The windows are 12-over-1 double-hung style. A four-stall garage was added at the back in 1922.

SIGNIFICANCE:
This is one of several significant courts in Culver City. The city of Pasadena has led the way in the recognizing the significance of the bungalow court in the history and development of California. This one was built by A. C. Bourland. Some of the people who lived there in the 1930's were: William Robertson, a plumber, and his wife, Anne; Anthony Speir, a driver for the Culver City Bus Lines, and his wife, Merle; George and Elsie Fisher (he was a cook); and Vincent Macaulay.

Spanish Colonial bungalow courts are fairly rare and this one is a good example. The stepped parapet red rake tile and red clay tile hoods above the windows are significant design elements. Spanish style bungalow courts were part of the California "mystic" that brought families from the East and Midwest in search of a more comfortable way of life.
ADDRESS:  
4144 -46  
LAFAYETTE PLACE

DATE:  
1930

STYLE:  
SPANISH COLONIAL

SOURCE:  
RATING:  
P  
B

ALTERATIONS:  
F

RESIDENCE:  
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

A second story, topped with a red-tile-clad, side-facing gabled roof, tops the back half of the first story, providing visual interest to this large Spanish Colonial home. A prominent front-facing gabled wing, capped with a red clay tile roof, is centered with a large arched plate glass window. The main entrance is in a courtyard, surrounded by a low stucco-clad wall which runs along the south side of the front-facing living room wing. The porte cochere is crowned by a side-facing gabled roof, clad in red clay tiles. A balcony, in the front facade of the second story portion, is supported by roughhewn square posts. A balustrade of of carved Spanish-style balusters borders the balcony. A second story garage apartment was added in 1946.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This picturesque Spanish Colonial house was built in 1930 by Edwin and Eugenia Culver. He worked for the Eastham Sales Corp., a firm which had operated in Culver City since 1919. The firm handled real estate, investments, and general insurance and were located at 9501 Washington Blvd. The house is significant because it is a good example of a quality Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. The courtyard, rustic posts on the ample balcony, and porte cochere are all character-defining elements.
ADDRESS:
4243
LEBOURGET AVE.

DATE:
1937

STYLE:
SPANISH COLONIAL

SOURCE:  RATING:
P        B

ALTERATIONS:
M

RESIDENCE:
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

A new coat of stucco covers the exterior of the large two-story Spanish Colonial house shown here. The double hipped roof is clad in asbestos shingles, trimmed with red clay tiles along the ridges. A wide balcony, edged with a black wrought iron railing, is cantilevered over the entrance porch below. Faux beams accent the underside of the cantilever. Square stucco-clad posts, topped with arches support the balcony roof. Pairs of 2-over-2 windows are featured on the second floor. A large, rectangular multi-paned window, with a stucco surround, occupies the south half of the front facade. The arched entry way leads to a porch with a solid rail. A porte cochere, topped with a side-facing gabled roof, extends from the north end of the front facade. Although this home has received some noticeable alterations, it appears to retain much of its original character. The garage, which can be seen by looking through the port cochere toward the rear of the property, was built in 1934 and possibly served as an early residence.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The two-story dwelling in front was built by Dave Snedder, who also built the garage. The original residents are listed as Axel, Augusta, and Otto Hanell. The house is significant for its Spanish Colonial architecture and for its distinctive overhanging balcony, porch piers, porte cochere and multi-paned front window.
ADDRESS:  
4058 LINCOLN AVE.

DATE:  
1925

STYLE:  
SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE:  RATING:  
E B-

ALTERATIONS:  
F

RESIDENCE:  
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COMMENT:  

DESCRIPTION:  
Spanish Colonial in character, the single-story house shown here has a varied roof line. A red clay tile fringe edges the stepped pediment of the front facade, concealing the flat main roof. A side-facing gabled roof, clad in red clay tile, caps the porte cochere on the south side. Two front-facing gables, also clad in red clay tiles, project toward the front from the main roof. Clay pipe venting is centered in each gable face. A large arched plate glass window is centered in the northernmost bay, and a smaller arched window is centered in the bay on the south end. An open courtyard, with a solid railing occupies the space between the two bays. The front door, sheltered by a small shed-style tiled roof, is in the north side of the courtyard. A porte cochere extends from the south facade and has a wooden gate.

SIGNIFICANCE:  
The earliest building permit for this house is for 8/19/26 for an "addition to the house". The owner at that time was C. L Gray and the contractor was J. L. Hale. In 1937 Dr. and Mrs. James J. Eves, an optometrist with offices at 9419 Culver Blvd., lived in the house. It is listed because of its overall design as shown in the varied roof line, arched windows, porte cochere, and semi-circular entry way and as a good example of the Spanish Colonial style.
ADDRESS:
4077 LINCOLN AVE.

DATE:
1929

STYLE:
ENGLISH TUDOR

SOURCE:  RATING:
P B

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

Inspired by visions of an English fairy tale castle, this Tudor Revival House is quite unique. The exterior is covered with stucco in a pattern made to resemble stone walls. The roofline, still clad in its original pattern of irregular shingles made to look like a thatched roof, features two towers, a hipped central section, and projecting gables. A courtyard, bordered with round stucco posts and black wrought iron railings, is centered between the two towers. A large arched plate glass window is centered in the southernmost wing, and probably indicates the location of the living room. Trios of arched windows accent the second floor of both towers, and the recessed arch theme is again used for the entrance and the first floor of the northernmost tower. A plate glass window, flanked by narrow double-hung windows is centered in the space between the towers. Similar windows are used throughout the house.

SIGNIFICANCE:

A fine representation of English Tudor Revival architecture, this house was built in 1929 by Louis and Dorothy Don. The contractor was R. M. Fuller. In the 1930's Samuel Goldstein, a tailor, and his wife, Millie, lived there. Later, Dr. Buford Criswell owned and lived in the house for several years. The fanciful towers, long narrow arched windows, entrance way, and patterned roof mark this house as a very fine example of the Tudor Revival style.
DESCRIPTION:

This single-storied Twenties Colonial Revival Bungalow is clad in horizontal lapped board siding. The side-facing gabled roof is capped by a gabled mini-dormer at the ridge line and features a front-facing gable at the south end. The full length porch, supported by the round Doric columns, extends past the north side and is bordered with a railing of plain, closely-spaced balusters. Wide steps lead to the Craftsman style front door. A large plate glass window occupies the space to the south of the door. Double-hung windows are used throughout the rest of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Built by Guiseppe and Maria Fea in 1922, the Fea family occupied the house for several years. The contractor was D. Shields. By 1945 Carl E. Cochran was the owner. This is a good example of Twenties Colonial Revival architecture - a style that is relatively rare in Culver City.
ADDRESS:
4190
LINCOLN AVE.

DATE:
1906

STYLE:
COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE:
RATING:
E  B

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

Early Colonial Revival bungalows are rare in Culver City because the style was popular from about 1898 until 1906, several years before Harry Culver founded Culver City. The high-pitched hipped roof, with a gable at the peak, is fronted with a pedimented gable with a bellcast pitch. The eaves are enclosed and a row of dentil trim decorates the wide frieze below the roof line. Narrow lapped board siding covers the exterior. The cantilevered slanted bay, which takes up the north half of the front facade, contains a centered plate glass window with a transom above and double-hung windows on the sides. A matching slanted bay adorns the north side. The recessed porch is supported by plain wooden posts (not original). The rail is solid lapped boards.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This well-detailed house appears to have been moved to this site in 1925. Records show Star House Movers as the contractors. W. H. Breck was the owner. During the 1930's, Hugh and Theodora McDonald lived here. He was with the Culver City Police Department. In the 1950's the owner was Judge Emmons. By 1972 the house belonged to John Mennitto. As one of the few pre-1910 houses in Culver City, the house has the significance of having belonged to one of the area's early settlers. This is a good example of the early Colonial Revival style, rare in Culver City.
DESCRIPTION:

This Craftsman Bungalow features a prominent front-facing gabled roof with wide overhangs. A trio of windows include a multi-paned window and louvered horizontal vents on each side, is centered in the front gable. The wide frieze above the full recessed porch is ornamented with wood blocks. The porch piers and railing are clad in stucco and topped with concrete caps. Large square pillars support the corners of the porch, with piers placed on each side of the centered entry to the porch. Large plate glass windows, with multi-paned transoms above, are used on each side of the centered front door. The slanted trim on the sides of the doors and windows add an Oriental flavor to the exterior.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Benjamin Petti, a policeman, and his son, Carl, owned this house for almost 40 years. The house is in good condition and maintains its original integrity. When most of Culver City was laid out in 1915, there were few homes in existence. Although fairly rare now, the Craftsman Bungalow style was popular from 1905 to 1920, and were built by important early settlers of the area.
DESCRIPTION:

A good example of the Spanish Eclectic style, this house has a prominent single-story turret in the front facade. It is clad in stucco. An ell-shaped gabled roof forms a pattern which features a large front-facing gabled roof with a large arched recessed plate glass window in the center. A small hip accents the gable peak. Red clay tiles cover all exterior roofs, including that of the turret. The front door, made of rough wood with an arch at the top, is located in the south side of the front wing. A large plate glass window occupies the center of the front facade, while an arched window is centered in the turret. The gabled roof extends to the south to form a porte cochere over the driveway.

SIGNIFICANCE:

A good example of Spanish Eclectic architecture, this house has a roof line of varied shapes. The garage behind the house was built in early 1924 by owners Kennedy and Johnson. Two years later they built a "7-room stucco dwelling". The front-facing wing on the north end was enlarged in 1928, and probably is the location of a formal living room. In 1937 George Thompson, a driver, owned the house. He remained there until the mid-1950's.
ADDRESS:  
4049 MADISON AVE.

DATE:  
1928

STYLE:  
SPANISH COL. BYZANTINE

SOURCE:  RATING:  
E  B

ALTERATIONS:  
F

RESIDENCE:  
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

There are four units in the two-story Spanish Colonial-styled Madison Apartments. The side-facing gabled roof is clad in red clay tiles and has almost no eaves, a popular style in the 1920’s. The symmetrical front facade features 5 ranks of windows. The front door and sidelights are recessed in the center of the front facade. A large cartouche crowns the doorway. Concrete steps, edged with wrought iron railings, lead off to each side from a rectangular open porch. Casement windows are used on the second floor, with the first floor arched windows placed directly below each one. Each window has a rectangular cast concrete surround at the top. Two smaller arched windows, with a wrought iron balcony, occupy the center of the second floor, front facade. Cast concrete quoins accent the sides and top of the windows.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Though fairly plain in terms of decoration, this apartment house displays an elegant and stately exterior. It shows good attention to detailing in the use of cast concrete ornamentation, the arched windows, and the unusual frieze. It has the shape, volume and symmetrical lines of a Colonial home, but is interpreted in the Spanish style. Some of the people who lived there in the 1930’s were: William and Velma Ehfe, who were the managers of the building; Edwin Luttrell, a librarian, and his wife, Joy; and Samuel and Geraldine Sachs.
ADDRESS:
4055
MADISON AVE.

DATE:
1922

STYLE:
SPANISH COLONIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
P    B

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

A shed-style roof, clad in large red clay tiles, forms a porch across the front of this single-storied Spanish Colonial house with an interesting roof line. An unbroken parapet, topped with two rows of red tile fringe, extends above the roof line, and is flanked by red-tile-clad hoods. Another section of roof, also with red clay tiles, leads out over the driveway, forming the portico. The large wood and glass front door is flanked by sidelights. Square wooden posts support the porch roof. The railing is constructed of wide boards between plain balusters.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Records show that this home and garage was built in 1922 by A. J. Gray. Eugene and Anna Porcheur had moved in by 1937 and stayed for several years. He was a studio worker. In 1940 Boyd and Ruby, contractors, added a porch. The house is significant for its unusual rooflines and Prairie School-like lines.
ADDRESS:  
4155 MADISON AVE.

DATE:  
1928

STYLE:  
TUDOR REVIVAL

SOURCE:  RATING:
E     B

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:  
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:
The distinctive high-pitched gabled roof of this multi-gabled house is indicative of the Tudor Revival style. Stucco cladding, edged in wide half timbers, covers the exterior of the house. Two front-facing gables form wings on the front facade. The wing at the north end curves downward to form a graceful bellcast wingwall above the arched entry way. A trio of matching diamond-paned casement windows, typical of the Tudor style, occupies the space beside the front door. Another trio of tall, narrow windows of the same design is centered in the southern-most gabled wing. A red brick chimney climbs the south wall, next to the driveway.

SIGNIFICANCE:
Cath Gibbons, a studioworker, lived in this house during the 1930's, 40's and 50's. In the 1970's David Henderson owned the house. There are few English Tudor Revival houses in Culver City. This one is a good example of the style and features leaded glass diamond paneled casement windows, half-timbering, steeply pitched gables, an arched brick-edged entry and a bellcast entrance roof.
ADDRESS:  
4179 -81  
MADISON AVE.

DATE:  
1928

STYLE:  
SPANISH COLONIAL

SOURCE:  
RATING:  
P  B

ALTERATIONS:  
F

RESIDENCE:  
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COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

This two-story stucco-clad duplex has always been a two-family house. Although it is basically a Spanish Colonial building, it has some elements of the Monterey style in the roof line and second floor balcony. A front-facing gabled wing extends to the front from the main side-facing gabled roof. Both are clad in red clay tiles. The recessed corner balcony, supported by a large square wooden post, features a balustrade with plain balusters. A large recessed multi-paned window is centered in the front wing, at the second story level. The recessed multi-paned window below is approximately the same size but has a rectangular shape. Entrance is through an arched entry below the balcony. The front door also carries out the arched shape. A shaped wingwall leads to the arched entry. Tall recessed casement windows are used throughout the rest of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Bert and Lena Berres, of Bert’s Toggery, built this elegant house in 1928. The building permit calls it a two-family, two-story dwelling and garage, built for the Berres family. However, no one else, except the Berres, is listed as occupant in 1937. The contractor was the firm of Kennedy and Johnson. The house is significant because it is one of the few Spanish Colonial houses with Monterey overtones in the city. The second floor recessed corner porch, the covered entry porch below, and rectangular volume are all Monterey style architectural elements. The large multi-paned windows and shaped wingwall at the entrance are attractive design elements.