



Proposed Mission Gardens Historic District

The Historic District has been added to City's List Of Potential Historic Resources but has not been designated by the Historic Landmark Commission or City Council.

The Proposed Mission Gardens Historic District is roughly bound by Pedregosa Street on the south, Emerson Street on the east, Plaza Rubio on the north and Laguna Street on the west.

DISTRICT DESCRIPTION

Period of Significance 1880-1940

Located in the City's Lower Riviera and Upper East residential neighborhoods, Mission Gardens Historic District is significant for its collection of buildings united by the various iterations of the Period Revival Movement. Located in close proximity to Santa Barbara Mission, the District has retained almost all of its single family residential buildings as well as the historic pattern of streets and sidewalks that date from the 1880s to 1940. The natural setting of the district that sits below the steeply sloping hillsides with rocky outcrops and stands of native oak trees characterize the Historic District.



This English Vernacular home is an example of a period revival style building in the Mission Gardens Historic District. Its simple round arched doorway with heavy wood door is a common character defining detail.

HISTORY

Between circa-1880 and 1940, the Mission Gardens Historic District developed as a residential enclave. It was during this 60-year period that the former gardens and fields of the Mission were transformed into a residential subdivision. The growth of the neighborhood was due to the City's expansion of the city's streetcar line, and in the late teens, the introduction of inexpensive mass produced automobiles. The City's also paved the streets and sidewalks, installed sewer and water systems, and introduced electricity that made it possible for the area to be transformed into a picturesque residential neighborhood. During this period the original Roosevelt Elementary School was constructed (replaced with a new school in 2000). The 1920s also saw the portion of Santa Barbara Mission grounds that bordered Plaza Rubio sold by the Franciscan order to fund earthquake repairs. The land was purchased and donated to the City as a park, by Mrs. J. A. Andrews, who lived in the house at 530 Plaza Rubio designed by the locally noted architect George Washington Smith. Propelled by the onset of the Great Depression, some of the single-family houses were transformed into multi-unit living spaces, small detached cottages were built alongside or behind existing houses; other times existing porches or garages were remodeled into additional rental units.

Architecture

Mission Gardens Historic District has many examples of homes designed during the Period Revival Movement which encompassed a diverse range of architectural influences, such as Tudor, French Norman, Spanish, Italian Renaissance, American Colonial, and Spanish Colonial styles. The addition of these Period Revival houses, particularly the Spanish Colonial Revival style and to a lesser extent, the Tudor style, built between circa-1920 and 1940, has given the historic district its definition as it reflected trends in architecture, transportation and town planning. The houses designed by the architect, Mary Craig in the mid-1920s, in the 400 block of Plaza Rubio are outstanding examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival style.



The 1925 house is one of a group of Spanish Colonial Revival residences designed by Mary Craig on the 400 block of Plaza Rubio.



The 1922 American Colonial Revival house on Montgomery Street is typical of the eclectic array of houses designed in period revival styles in the historic district.