

2209 Chapala St.

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Designation Status: Structure of Merit

Assessor Parcel Number: 025-183-009

Historic Name: Foster Residence

Constructed: 1924

Property Description:

One-story, Spanish Colonial Revival style, features a low pitched gable roof which emphasizes the red terra cotta tiles by adding a wider dimension. Its most distinguishing feature is the large, wooden, arched door which recesses at the wall plane with stucco return and no trim; it also features iron grilled decor on the center. This uniquely cottage shaped house also features the interior chimney which is located directly in line with the front door. The main windows are paired casements with lights divided by horizontal mullions and are located on both ends of the arched door. A smaller window is located in close proximity to the arched door and is double-hung, with iron grilles placed around it.

Architect: George Porter

Architectural Style: Spanish Colonial Revival

Property Type: Single Family Residence

Original Use: Single Family Residence

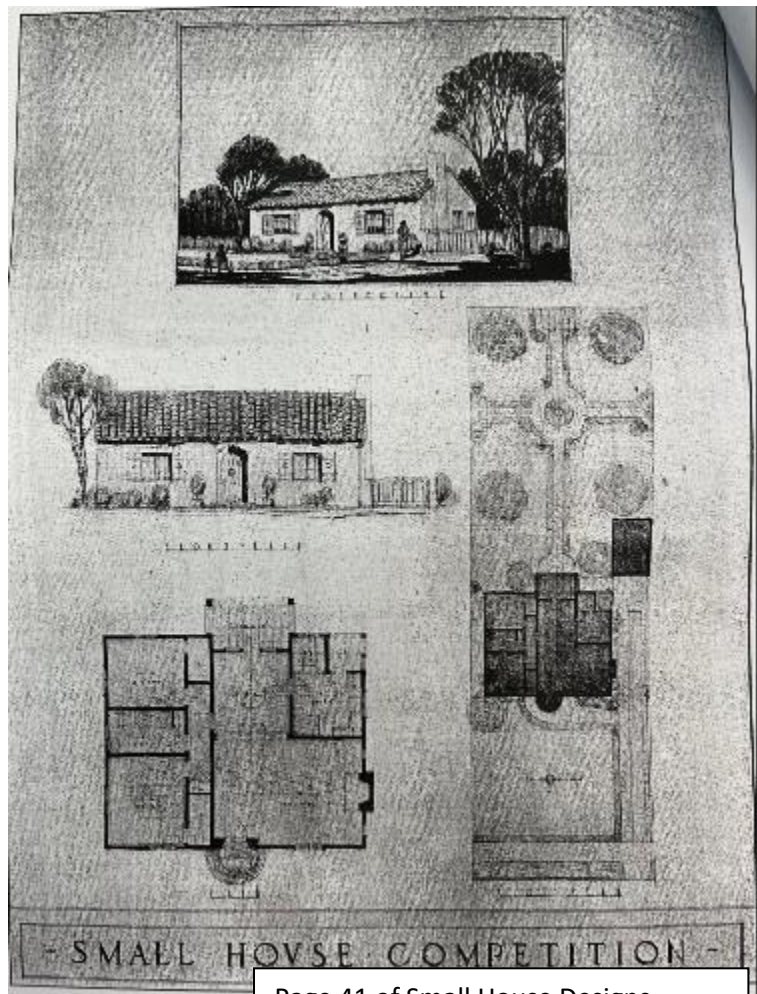
Significance: The building was designated a Structure of Merit under the following criteria provided by the Municipal Code, Section 22.22.040 on November 29, 2017.

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

The façade of the house at 2209 Chapala Street preserves enough of its character defining elements to identify its original architectural style. These features include its centrally located arched doorway, the plane stucco walls, the stuccoed chimney, and the overall structure and form. These details comprise a significant part of the heritage of the City such that they are representative of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in Santa Barbara.

The house is similar in design to the in the Small House Competition of 1924 sponsored by the Plans and Plantings Committee. The Small House Movement of the 1920s movement began in 1919 when the American Institute of Architects (AIA) founded the Architects' Small House Service Bureau. The non-profit offered a plan service, which allowed prospective homeowners to buy small house blueprints through the mail. The standards they set for small houses were highly influential and led to many other architect plan services springing up in the 1920s. A national program called *Better Homes in America* used small house design to promote social reform and the beautification. They not only partnered with the Architects' Small House Service Bureau but formed their own robust research and educational programs including an annual model house demonstration in cities all over the country.

Santa Barbara submitted many entries in the Better Homes in America competition and even won the 1926 competition and the Community Arts Association of Santa Barbara held their own competition and collected their own plans to encourage small house designs in 1924. As this house is representative of the Small House Movement, it qualifies under criterion A.



Page 41 of Small House Designs.
printed by the Community Arts
Association of Santa Barbara in 1924.

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

The building exemplifies the Spanish Colonial Revival style which emphasizes the interplay of cubic volumes, patios, pergolas, and verandas; each interpreted and redefined by local architects or regions in their own oeuvre of the form, massing, and decorative treatments. Santa Barbara has examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival style throughout the city from the distinct commercial buildings on State Street, to large homes and estates on the Riviera, to multi-family housing and hotels in the West Beach neighborhood along the waterfront.

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

The building embodies elements that demonstrate an outstanding attention to design, detail, materials, and craftsmanship with the low pitched gable roofs that emphasize the terra cotta tile that create a decorative edge from the roof to the wall, the smooth stucco walls, and the iron grille decor on the arched door way which adds a defining touch to the Spanish Colonial Revival style.

Historic Integrity: The building retains most of its original features and most of the surrounding neighborhood is intact so that it has high historic integrity of location, feeling, setting, design, materials, workmanship and association. The building can convey its c. 1924 original appearance.

Works Cited:

Small House Designs. Edited by Carleton Monroe Winslow and Edward Fisher Brown. Santa Barbara, CA, Community Arts Association of Santa Barbara, 1924.

Smith, Valerie. *The Small House Movement of the 1920s: Preserving Small "Better" Houses*. Graduate Thesis Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Columbia University, May 2022. Community Development Department Santa Barbara Archives.