

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____

HRI # _____

Trinomial _____

NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____

Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

P1. Resource Name: F. Rex and Vera Sporleder Home

***P2. Location:** *a. County: Fresno

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Fresno South, California (Photorevised 1981); Section 2,T14S R20E

c. Address: 3702 E. Huntington Boulevard, Fresno

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 461-194-01

***P3a. Description:** This distinct home located on the southeast corner parcel at 7th and Huntington claims influences from both the Spanish Eclectic as well as the asymmetrical sub-type of the Italian Renaissance Revival. In form it is also a variant of the American vernacular Upright and Wing with a tall two story hipped roof volume which projects towards the street and a medium pitched side-gabled living room on the east elevation. The clay tile roof has a broad overhang with exposed decorative rafter tails. Double French doors open onto a wrought iron balconet on the second floor which has a "S" worked into the design, "S" for the original owners. Under the balconet is a ribbon window with three 1/1 double hung sash windows. The main entrance is a heavy panel door of walnut with leaded glass sidelights which one enters through an arched opening which is supported by heavy Doric style columns. The exterior partial width porch has a shed roof. Two sets of matching windows on the façade of the one story living room are comprised of two 1/1 double hung sash with a three light transom above each window. Of particular interest in this home is the one-story five-sided breakfast nook on the west elevation and the former sleeping porch on the second story. Until the invention of air conditioning, screened rooms open to the night breezes were commonly used for sleeping during the summer months and even in the winter.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP2 (Single Family Residence)

***P4. Resources Present:** ● Building ● Element of District



P5b Photo date: 10.07.09

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**

1926, building permit

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Melissa Black and Clay Cox
3702 E. Huntington Boulevard
Fresno, CA 93702-2808

***P8. Recorded by:**

Karana Hattersley-Drayton
Historic Preservation Project
Manager, City of Fresno

***P9. Date Recorded:** 10.7.09
and 26 July 2013

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** "Evaluation of the F. Rex and Vera Sporleder Home for Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources"

***Attachments:** ● BSO Form

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code: 5B, 3CB

*Resource Name: F. Rex and Vera Sporleder Home

B3. Original Use: Single-family residence

B4. Present Use: Single-family residence

***B5. Architectural Style:** Spanish Eclectic/Italian Renaissance Revival

***B6. Construction History:** A building permit was issued to Fisher and McNulty contractors on May 10, 1926.

***B7. Moved?** No

***B8. Related Features:** The home faces onto the former right-of-way for the Sunnyside and Recreation Line. The dual track for the street car was removed in 1939 and the area is now a grassy median.

B9a. Architect: Unknown

B9b. Builder: Fisher and McNulty

***B10. Significance: Theme:** Streetcar Suburb **Area:** Alta Vista Tract/Huntington Blvd.

Period of Significance: 1926

Property Type: Residence

Applicable Criteria: 1, I; 2, ii; 3, iii

F. Rex Sporleder was associated with the Hollenbeck-Bush Planing Mill which was founded in Fresno in 1890. Sporleder came to Fresno in 1922 from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin and initially worked as a draftsman for the mill. In 1932 he became a part owner, in 1940 he is listed as the Manager and by 1950 he was the sole owner. His wife Vera was a teacher at Roosevelt High School. Apparently the Sporleders loved to entertain and the open plan of the first floor as well as the finished basement were the site of numerous social events. The home was built by the contracting firm of Fisher and McNulty. Hugh McNulty was born in St. Louis in 1892 and lived in Fresno from infancy. He graduated from Stanford University in Mining Engineering and formed a partnership with R.P. Fisher in 1920. The company constructed numerous buildings of note including the Pantages Theatre and Twining Laboratories, the latter designed by Charles Butner (Winchell, History of Fresno County). It is unclear whether the company had the expertise to design a home such as this; one assumes not. The home is of architectural interest due to the overall design, the hexagonal breakfast nook (a feature seen on a few other Huntington Boulevard homes), and the interior use of a variety of exotic woods. Fisher and McNulty was an important contracting firm in early Fresno and Sporleder was ultimately the owner of a planing mill that played a significant role in the development of this city. The home appears to be eligible to the Local Register of Historic Resources and the California Register under Criteria I, i; 2, ii; and 3, iii.

***B12. References:** 1918, 1948, 1963, 1968-70 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Building permits on file with the City of Fresno Planning Division; Draft Nomination forms for Huntington Boulevard, National Register of Historic Places (1994); Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, 2002; Garcia, Uvaldo. "History of the Alta Vista Tract and Huntington Boulevard: A Work of Albert Graves Wishon." Unpublished Ms. Prepared for History 100, Fresno State University, 13 May 2003; Edward Hamm, Jr. *When Fresno Rode the Rails* (1979); Kerckhoff Avenue Architectural Survey, 1991; Interview with Jon Carroll 7 October 2009;

***B14. Evaluator:** Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.
Historic Preservation Project Manager
Fresno, CA 93721

***Date of Evaluation:** 30 July 2014

(This space reserved for official comments.)

