

# PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_

HRI # \_\_\_\_\_

Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_

NRHP Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_

Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**P1. Resource Name:** Fred and Virginia Billings Home

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

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

c. Address: 3650 E. Huntington Boulevard

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 461-183-05

**\*P3a. Description:** This full two-story Colonial Revival residence faces north onto Huntington Boulevard on a .45-acre corner parcel at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The façade is rigorously symmetrical, including matching end chimneys. The cladding on the lower story is stucco with beaded lapped siding on the second. The low pitched side gabled roof is boxed with no overhang. Easily the most stunning feature of this home is the main entrance which is centered, inset and protected by a decorative portico which is supported by four slender Corinthian style columns. Two fluted pilasters connect the porch to the façade. The heavy wood panel door has leaded glass sidelights which are set above decorative casework. A bay window with 4/4, 6/6 and 4/4 lights is immediately above the front entrance. All visible windows are multi-pane with 6/1 double hung sash on the first floor and 6/6 and 4/4 windows on the second and side elevations. Façade windows have decorative shutters. Two "porthole" windows flank the front entrance.

The rear east elevation includes a one-story extensive addition with an attached garage.



**P5b Photo date:** July 26, 2013

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

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



**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** 1938, building permit; 36 sf addition in 1944

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**  
Janet and Stephen Stone  
3650 E. Huntington Blvd.  
Fresno, CA 93702

**\*P8. Recorded by:**  
Karana Hattersley-Drayton  
Historic Preservation Project  
Manager, City of Fresno

**\*P9. Date Recorded:** 12  
October 2009; July 26, 2013

**\*P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

**\*P11. Report Citation:** "Evaluation of the Fred and Virginia Billings Home to the Local Register of Historic Resources"

**\*Attachments:** ● Building, Structure, Object Record

**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

\*NRHP Status Code: 3CB; 5B

\*Resource Name: The Fred and Virginia Billings Home

**B3. Original Use:** Single-family residence

**B4. Present Use:** Single-family residence

\***B5. Architectural Style:** Colonial Revival

\***B6. Construction History:** A permit for new construction valued at \$20,000 was issued on 14 September 1938. An addition of 36 sq. feet was permitted in 1944. Both permits were issued to contractor C.V. Smith.

\***B7. Moved?**  No

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

**B9a. Architect:** Charles E. Butner

**B9b. Builder:** C.V. Smith

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

**Period of Significance:** 1938-1961 **Property Type:** Residence/Colonial Revival

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

This two story Colonial Revival Home was constructed for Fred and Virginia Billings in 1938 and is attributed to architect Charles E. Butner. Fred Billings was a native of Marshalltown, Iowa and came to Fresno in September 1910. He went into real estate with Rhine Meyering (aka Billings and Meyering). In 1914 the partnership acquired the Alta Vista Tract, completed the infrastructure and began to market the subdivision in earnest (Kerckhoff Avenue Survey 1991). The two men remained in business together until Meyering's retirement in 1935. Fred Billings was an important figure in civic affairs: he served as the first chair of the County Planning Commission, the Director of the Fresno County Chamber of Commerce and additionally was the Director of the Sanger Citrus Association. The residence at 3650 E. Huntington was one of several which Billings owned along Huntington Boulevard. Charles E. Butner received his architectural training under Paul Cret at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1914 Butner and former college classmate Edward Glass formed the firm of Glass and Butner in Fresno. During the Depression Butner relocated to Salinas where he built a thriving architectural practice in the Monterey Bay area (Powell 1996). The residence at 3650 E. Huntington Boulevard appears to be eligible for both the Local Register and the California Register for its association and contribution to the proposed Huntington Blvd. Historic District (Criterion i, 1) for its association with Fred Billings, a civic leader who developed the Alta Vista Tract (Criterion ii, 2) and as an example of the extant work of a major architect, Charles E. Butner (iii, 3).

\***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; Powell, "Charles E. Butner" 1996.

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

\***Date of Evaluation:** 15 July 2014

(This space reserved for official comments.)

