

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____

HRI # _____

Trinomial _____

NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____

Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

P1. Resource Name: The Ralph and Jenny Watson Home

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

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

c. Address: 3537 E. Huntington Blvd.

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 461-115-10

***P3a. Description:** This full 2-story Tudor Revival style home faces south onto E. Huntington Blvd. The construction is wood frame with stucco cladding. The double cross-gabled steeply pitched roof has wide overhanging eaves, a simple fascia board trim and decorative wood knee braces. The roof on the west end-gabled bay swoops down on a diagonal to the first floor to connect with a wood trellis that extends across the façade from the front entrance to the east end of the home. Typical to the style is the non-structural decorative wood strapwork which is located under the roof peaks of the two end-gabled bays. The home's main entrance is off-center to the west on the façade. The single French door has 15 lights with wood muntins; the sidelights include 10 panes each. The west bay has double French doors of 10 lights each flanked by sidelights also of 10 lights. This assemblage of French doors and sidelights is replicated on the east bay. Two large windows on the first floor are located east of the front door and are separated into a sash of 12 lights above and 6 lights below. The windows on the façade's second story include 3/1 double hung sash and a ribbon window of 2/1 3/1 2/1 double hung sash on the west bay. Most windows have decorative shutters. A small piazza extends from the French doors on the west bay which is protected with a one story partial width porch covering which is supported by heavy piers. A tall external chimney is located on the west elevation; an internal chimney is located on the east side of the home. An end-gabled garage with decorative strapwork is situated at the northwest corner of the parcel.

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

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



P5b Photo date: 1 July 2014

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** 1922 building permit; room added, 1937

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Williams and Judith Newton
3537 E. Huntington Blvd.
Fresno, CA 93702-3223

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

***P9. Date Recorded:** 1 July 2014

***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** Evaluation of the Ralph and Jenny Watson Home for the Local Register of Historic Resources."

***Attachments:** ● Building, Structure and Object Form

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

*NRHP Status Code: 3D; 3CB; 5B

*Resource Name: The Ralph and Jenny Watson Home

B3. Original Use: Single-family residential

B4. Present Use: Single-family residential

***B5. Architectural Style:** Tudor Revival

***B6. Construction History:** A building permit valued at \$16,000 was issued on June 30, 1922. A permit to add "1 room" was issued in 1937. An interior elevator was apparently built in 1941. A permit for a den addition was issued in 1956.

***B7. Moved?** No

***B8. Related Features:** Of importance is that the home was built in 1922 for A.G. Wishon's daughter Jenny and her husband, by subdividing off a parcel from block 17 of the Alta Vista Tract. Thus the house was located next door to Wishon's 1916 Arts and Crafts Home.

B9a. Architect: Unknown

B9b. Builder: Valley Construction Company

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

Period of Significance: 1922-1936 **Property Type:** Tudor Revival

Applicable Criteria: 1, i; 2, ii; 3, iii.

This residence was built for Jenny and Ralph Watson in 1922 on lot 11 and lot 12 of Block 17 of the Alta Vista Tract (Building permit #1561). The tract was platted in 1911 as a streetcar suburb on either side of the Sunnyside and Recreation Line which had been extended circa 1907 by Jenny Watson's father, Albert Graves Wishon to carry Fresno residents out to Recreation Park (Garcia 2003). Albert Wishon purchased the first parcels in the new subdivision in 1912, a day after the official annexation, and he completed a beautiful Arts and Crafts inspired residence at the corner of Huntington Boulevard and Sixth Street in 1916. Block 17 was subdivided a few years later to allow first for the Watson residence and later for the corner parcel to accommodate the 1947 residence for Wishon's granddaughter, Eleanor Wishon MacMichael. The Watson home is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival, a style loosely based on a variety of Medieval English prototypes and which was popular in the Fresno area between the two World Wars. The Ralph and Jenny Watson Home appears to be eligible for Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources under Criteria i, ii and iii as for its association with the Alta Vista Tract, the Wishon family and for its architectural significance. The home is also a contributor to the proposed Local Register Huntington Boulevard Historic District and a contributor to the NR eligible Alta Vista Tract.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes:

***B12. References:** 1919, 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.

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

***Date of Evaluation:** 3 July 2014

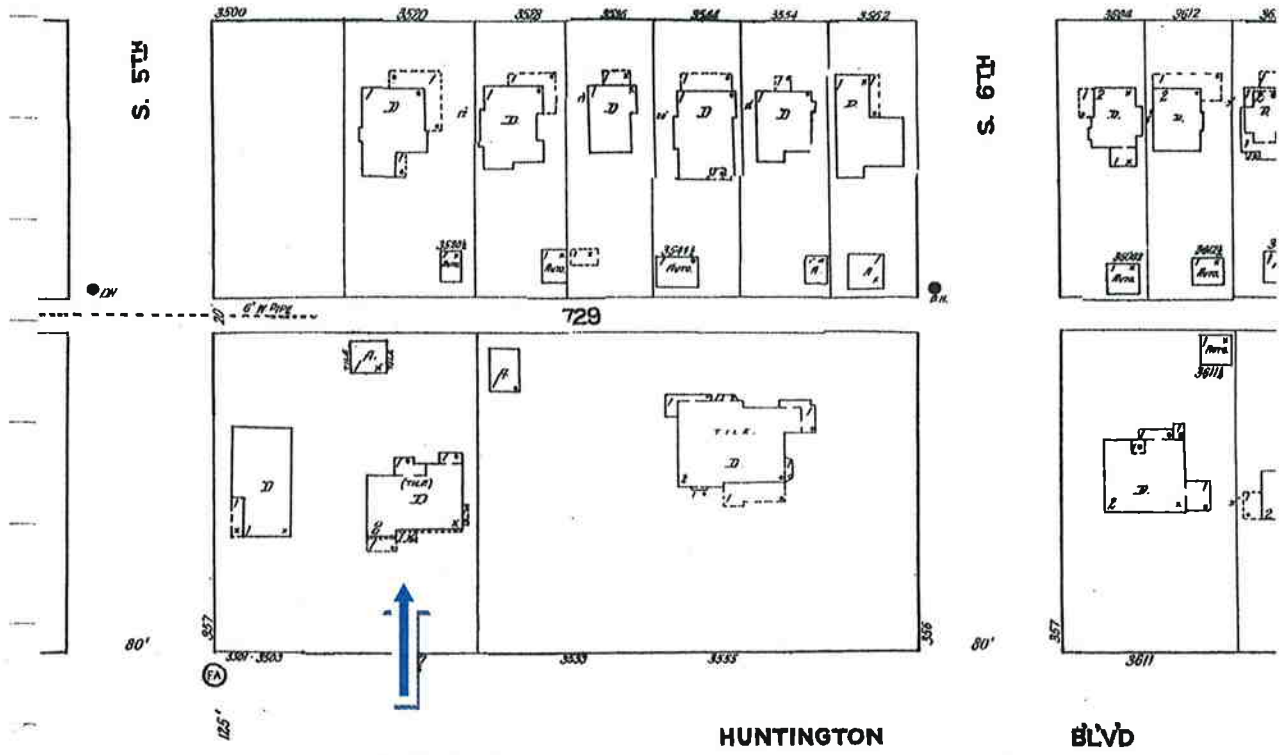
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*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton

*Date: 1 July 2014

■ Continuation



1948 Sanborn Map:48

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