

**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
HRI # \_\_\_\_\_  
Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_  
NRHP Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_  
Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Huntington Boulevard Historic District

Map Ref. #95

**P1. Resource Name:** A.G. and Henrietta Wishon Home

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

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

c. Address: 3555 E. Huntington Blvd.

d. Assessor's Parcel Number: 461-115-09

**\*P3a. Description:** This stately full two story Arts and Crafts style home commands a 1.06 acre parcel on the northeast corner of E. Huntington Boulevard and Sixth Street and is the original residence of the Alta Vista Tract developer Albert Graves Wishon. The home has asymmetrical massing and incorporates atypical features such as a tile roof. It is stucco clad, cross-gabled with a steeply pitched roof with a wide overhang and exposed rafter tails. The main entrance is centrally located under a partial width exterior wood pergola, which is supported by a series of single and paired Doric style columns. The front doors are double French of 10 lights each with "sidelights" (or perhaps functioning doors) of 10 lights. Double French doors of 10 lights to the east of the main entrance also exit onto the shaded piazza and are framed with 6/6 windows on each side. An arched top window is located midway on the second floor of the side-gabled main home. To the east of this window are two 10/1 double hung sash windows. To the west is one ribbon window with a central feature of 8/1 lights and 4/1 lights windows on each side. Green shutters are incised with a clantry design, as is often seen on Beaux Arts style buildings. A shed roof dormer on the attic includes 5 windows of 6 panes each. A bay window on the second floor of the gable ended bay appears from the right-of-way to consist of 4 casement type windows of 10 lights each. A ribbon window on the first floor is comprised of a central feature of 15/1 lights flanked by windows of 9/1. One story bays are located on the west elevation and also on the east elevation. At least one external chimney is visible on the west elevation. A circular driveway and mature landscaping complete this very picturesque property.

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

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



**P5b Photo date:** 11 July 2014

**\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** 1915 building permit; garage 1916; new windows and general repair, 1937

**\*P7. Owner and Address:**  
Natalie and Michael Hauser  
3555 E. Huntington Blvd.  
Fresno, CA 93702

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

**\*P9. Date Recorded:** 11 July 2014

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

**\*P11. Report Citation:** "Evaluation of the A.G. Wishon Home to Fresno's Local Register of Historic Resources"

**\*Attachments:** ● BSO Form ● Continuation Sheet



**BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD**

\*NRHP Status Code: 2D2, 3B, 5B

\*Resource Name: A.G. and Henrietta Wishon Home

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

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

\***B5. Architectural Style:** Arts and Crafts

\***B6. Construction History:** Original building permit issued on 10 November 1915; garage added in 1916 with an addition to garage in 1938 by Taylor-Wheeler; new bathroom, windows and general repairs to the home in 1937 and swimming pool constructed in 1941.

\***B7. Moved?**  No

\***B8. Related Features:** The home faces south 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:** Coates and Traver

**B9b. Builder:** Unknown

\***B10. Significance: Theme:** Streetcar suburb **Area:** Alta Vista Tract (Huntington Boulevard)

**Period of Significance:** 1916-1936 **Property Type:** Single-family residential **Applicable Criteria:** A/1/i; B/2/ii; C/3/iii

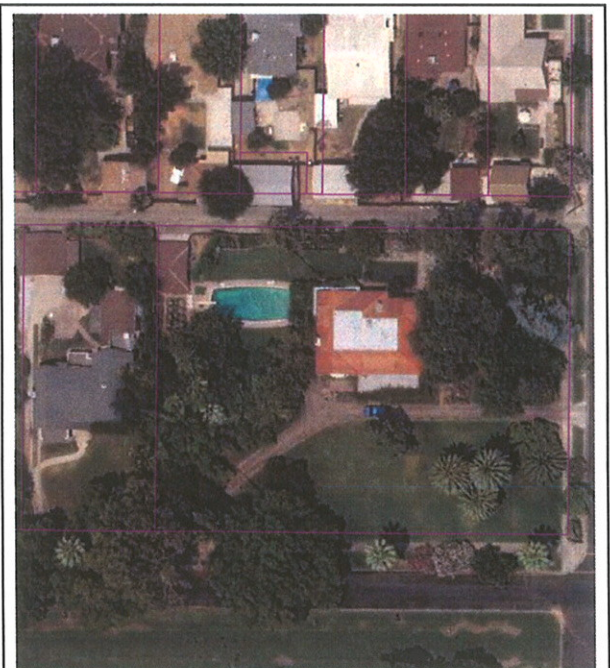
This distinctive two-story home is located on Block 17 of the Alta Vista Tract and was the residence of Albert Graves Wishon, who helped to develop the subdivision. The tract was platted in 1911 as a streetcar suburb on either side of the Sunnyside and Recreation Line which had been extended circa 1907 by 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 this 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 a residence for his daughter and son-in-law, Jenny Wishon Watson and later to accommodate the 1947 residence for Wishon's granddaughter, Eleanor Wishon MacMichael. The home shares attributes with the Arts and Crafts movement of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century: the two story irregular massing with a steeply pitched roof, gables and dormers, wide overhanging eaves, a façade pergola which connects the house to the out-of-doors, double hung sash windows with multiple lights in the upper half, French doors, knee braces at the cornice, etc. (Carter and Goss 1988:140) However it is also architecturally unique, in part due to the tile roof.

\***B12. References:** 1918, 1948 and 1963 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; Building permits on file, City of Fresno; Heritage Fresno: Homes and People, 1975:62; 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; Carter and Goss 1988:140; John Edward Powell, Biographies of W.D. Coates and Harrison Traver, 1996 (A Guide to Historic Architecture in Fresno).

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

\***Date of Evaluation:** 4 February 2015

(This space reserved for official comments.)



\*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton

\*Date: 11 July 2014

■ Continuation

Albert Graves Wishon was born on November 6, 1858 at Coppeges Mill, Missouri. His early experience and interest in farming and civil engineering provided a foundation for his entrepreneurial work in Fresno. He built the San Joaquin Valley's first power plant on the Kaweah River east of Visalia: the Mt. Whitney Power Company which began operations on June 30, 1899 (Heritage Fresno:62). Wishon left the Mt. Whitney Company in 1902 and that same year convinced three Los Angeles investors, A.C. Balch, W.G. Kerckhoff and Henry E. Huntington, to purchase the faltering San Joaquin Power Company. In 1903 the company was renamed the San Joaquin Light and Power Corporation and included in its holdings the Fresno City Water Company and the Fresno City Railway, which was renamed the Fresno Traction Company. Wishon was appointed the General Manager.

Wishon purchased and improved Recreation Park (located at Cedar and Ventura) and in order to bring visitors to the park he struck a deal with the Pacific Improvement Company which owned the 190-acre alfalfa field immediately east of downtown Fresno and north of Ventura. (Although the 1906 Sanborn indicates street blocks throughout this area, there apparently was no development and it was only a paper subdivision.) The agreement allowed Wishon to lay a double track down Mariposa Street. Passenger service on the expanded Sunnyside and Recreation Line began after 1907.

The land adjacent to the streetcar line became increasingly desirable for residential use. The "Alta Vista Tract" was mapped by William Stranaham and officially platted in 1911. The tract was annexed to the City on January 23, 1912 and next day Wishon bought the first lots on Huntington Boulevard (the former Mariposa Street). Wishon was clearly involved with the development of the tract and in the covenants that were included in deeds. By 1920 there were 267 homes in the Tract, most of them on the side streets of Balch, Platt, Kerckhoff and Verrue.

The San Joaquin Light and Power Corporation merged with Pacific Gas and Electric in 1930 and Wishon remained a director and vice chairman of the board until his death. A.G. Wishon was also involved in numerous other enterprises in the Fresno area and served, for example, as a director of the Sun Maid Raisin Company. In later years he operated orchards and vineyards with his son-in-law, Ralph W. Watson (who lived in the Tudor Revival style home next door).

The A.G. and Henrietta Wishon Home was designed by the architectural firm of Coates and Traver. William D. Coates studied with Paul Cret at the University of Pennsylvania and from 1909 to 1911 he served as the California State Architect. In 1911 he formed a partnership with Harrison B. Traver, a former college classmate at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1914 the firm moved to Fresno where they continued to practice until 1925. They designed several local buildings and residences of note, including the Liberty Theatre and Fresno High School as well as the Wishon Home and the Butler Home at 3635 E. Huntington (Powell 1996). Coates also lived on Huntington Boulevard and designed the French Eclectic style home (known locally as the "Witches House") at 3901 E. Huntington for his own residence.

The A.G. Wishon Home appears to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources and the Local Register of Historic Resources under Criterion A/1/I as one of the first homes in the Alta Vista Tract, under Criterion B/2/ii for Wishon's role in local and regional history and under Criterion C/3/iii as the work of a master, the architectural firm of Coates and Traver and as a superb and eclectic example of the Arts and Crafts aesthetic. A contributor to the home is the 88 foot tall California Coast Redwood in the front yard which is decorated each year and has been honored by the National Christmas Tree Association as the Nation's Tallest Living Lighted Decorated Christmas Tree (December 2001 HB Calendar).



