

(State use only)

Ser _____ Site _____ Mo. _____ Yr. _____
 UTM _____ Q _____ NR _____ SHL _____
 Lat _____ Lon _____ Era _____ Sig _____
 Adm T2 T3 Cat HABS HAER Fed _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

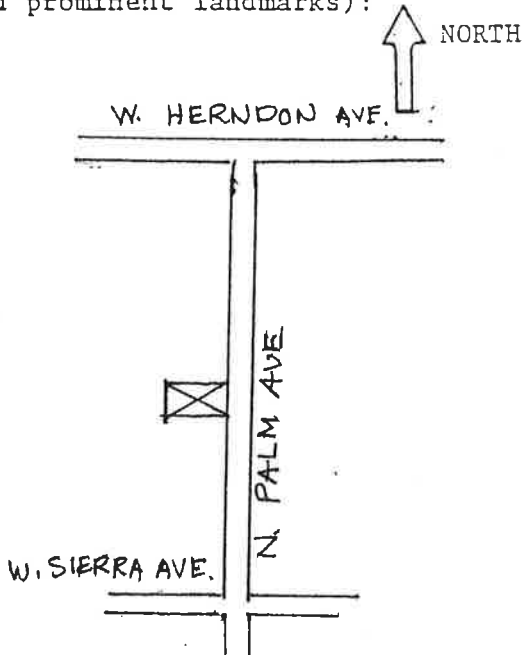
IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: CRAYCROFT HOME
2. Historic name, if known: SAME
3. Street or rural address 6545 N. PALM AVENUE
 City: FRESNO ZIP: 93704 County: FRESNO
4. Present owner, if known: PENSTAR Address: 4955 E. ANDERSON AVENUE
 City: FRESNO, CA ZIP: 93727 Ownership is: Public Private
5. Present Use: Vacant Original Use: Residence
 Other past uses: None

DESCRIPTION

6. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:
 A two-story residence entirely of masonry construction using a variety of masonry materials, of English Revival Style, with a detached 3-car garage of the same materials and structural proportions. These structures are located on a site containing .73 acres, with large lawn and garden areas front and back, elaborate patio and barbeque, and masonry wall surrounding backyard. The home is well maintained and unchanged since its construction in 1927.

7. Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



8. Approximate property size:
 Lot size (in feet) Frontage 130.35 ft.
 Depth 240.00 ft.
 or approx. acreage 0.72 Ac.
9. Condition: (check one)
 a. Excellent b. Good c. Fair
 d. Deteriorated e. No longer in existence
10. Is the feature a. Altered? b. Unaltered
11. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary)
 a. Open land b. Scattered buildings
 c. Densely built-up d. Residential
 e. Commercial f. Industrial
 g. Other
12. Threats to site:
 a. None known b. Private development
 c. Zoning d. Public Works project
 e. Vandalism f. Other
13. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s): 1927, 198

NOTE: The following (Items 14-19) are for structures only.

14. Primary exterior building material: a. Stone b. Brick c. Stucco
d. Adobe e. Wood f. Other
15. Is the structure: a. On its original site? b. Moved? c. Unknown?
16. Year of initial construction _____ This date is: a. Factual b. Estimated
17. Architect (if known): W.D. COATES
18. Builder (if known): F.J. CRAYCROFT
19. Related features: a. Barn b. Carriage house c. Outhouse d. Shed(s)
e. Formal garden(s) f. Windmill g. Watertower/tankhouse
h. Other i. None

SIGNIFICANCE

20. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, persons associated with the site when known):

C.J. Craycroft established the Craycroft Brick Company in 1887 and was elected to the Fresno City Board of Trustees in 1892. He served eight years, four of which he was chairman. His son, Frank J. Craycroft, became president of the company in 1915 and built the home at 6545 N. Palm Avenue in 1927. The home was designed by a local architect W.D. Coates. Coates was trained by and worked for other notable architects including the legendary French architect Paul Phillippe Cret and pioneer California architects, the McDougall Brothers. The home is unchanged from original construction, and occupied only the the Craycroft family for 54 year

21. Main theme of the historic resource: (Check only one): a. Architecture
b. Arts & Leisure c. Economic/Industrial d. Exploration/Settlement
e. Government f. Military g. Religion h. Social/Education
22. Sources: List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews, and their dates:
"A Portrait of Fresno," Fresno City and County Historical Society.

23. Date form prepared: 10/30/87 By (name): ROGER B. TAYLOR
Address: 2326 Fresno Street, Room 103
City Hall, Development Dept, City Fresno ZIP: 93721
Phone: (209) 488-1361 Organization: City of Fresno

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ATTACHMENT A

HISTORIC REPORT

The Frank J. Craycroft home is located on the west side of N. Palm Avenue approximately 1000 feet north of Sierra Avenue. The original parcel included four of J. C. Forkners' 20-acre lots in the extensive fig orchards which he had planted and subdivided between 1910 and 1917. Approximately one acre of fig trees was cleared to make room for the residence, gardens, and accessory structures. The other 79 acres of fig orchard remained intact until recently when, with all surrounding property having been developed, the entire Craycroft site was sold for development of residences, apartments and offices. The developer has been required to preserve the Craycroft home as condition of approval of the project. It is proposed that the home be used for offices. The grounds include a number of large trees.

The main residential structure was built in 1927 for Frank J. Craycroft, the president of Craycroft Brick Company, and is of great architectural significance to the community of Fresno. It is of English Revival Style; with generous use of the Craycroft products of brick and tile. The walls are made of hollow tile; exterior brick is variegated dark colors, with random clinker bricks and the skintled pattern of randomly placed individual bricks placed at an angle and projecting from the plane of the wall. The roof material is variegated color tile with tile wrap-around trim on the gables and ridge cap. The most unique feature of the front elevation is the entry porch. The porch opening includes a round arch which is set-off by a course of soldier-bond bricks. The porch roof is an extension of the main roof. All first and second floor windows are symmetrically placed and upper and lower windows are matched. All lower windows are framed with shutters of an informal design. The attic gables are vented with small narrow vertical openings which are topped with a round arch. The detached three-car garage is composed of matching design elements and materials. An elaborate barbeque-outdoor kitchen area is built into a wall which surrounds the backyard and which is entirely constructed of brick.

The architect of this home lends importance worth noting. W.D. Coates (1881-1953) began his career in architecture as an apprentice to the pioneer California architectural firm of McDougall Bros. Coates completed formal academic studies at the University of Pennsylvania under the legendary French architect Paul Philippe Cret, and was later appointed California State Architect in 1913. Coates returned to his hometown to set up private practice with Harrison B. Traver in 1914. Their first work in Fresno was the Travelers Hotel, located at Tulare and "H" Streets. The Craycroft residence remains to this day an exemplary work by W.D. Coates,

HISTORIC REPORT (Continued)

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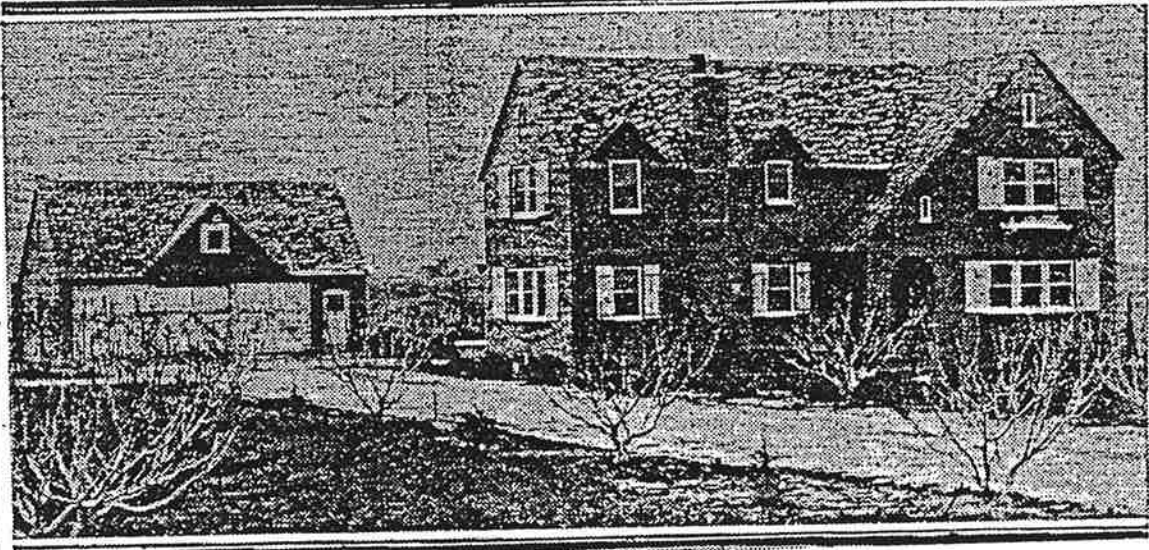
whose impact on the community may also be measured by the fact that a prestigious scholarship awarded in architectural studies by California State University, Fresno, carries his name. Coates designed a number of other buildings which have already been placed on the Register.

The Craycroft family is one of Fresno's most prominent families, particularly as it relates to the construction industry. The Craycroft Brick Company is the fifth oldest continuously operating business in Fresno, having been established in 1887 by Columbus J. Craycroft. The plant, located at 2301 W. Belmont Avenue, has been at that location for 77 years. C. J. Craycroft was elected a city trustee in 1892 and served eight years, four of which he was chairman. His son, Frank J. and grandson Kenneth T., have continued the family tradition of public service and leadership.

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Picturesque New Home

Home of Frank J. Craycroft at Sierra and Palm avenues in Figardens has just been completed. It is a two-story, with seven rooms, two baths, skintled brick and hollow tile construction, with tiled roof. The house, one of the finest built around here in recent years, was designed by W. D. Coates, local architect, and is of the English type of architecture.



n.d.

*Recorded by: Karana Hattersley-Drayton, M.A.

*Date: 23 September 2015

■ Continuation



**Frank J. Craycroft Home and
Garage/Carriage House 3.25.13**