

773 DOLORES STREET

## *773 Dolores Street*

(11 DOLORES)



### **1917 ~ Shingle style**

ARCHITECT: Henry H. Gutterson  
OWNERS: Olmsted ~ Anderson ~ Minto ~ Olukotun/Bomar

BY ELSBETH NEWFIELD; REVISED IN 2006 BY MARIAN LEIB ADAMS

**T**his is one of two campus houses designed by Henry Higby Gutterson (the other is 662 Mirada). Original house plans were drawn for Frederick Erskine Olmsted in 1917, but local directories don't list the Olmsteds at 11 (later 773) Dolores until 1918–19.

Gutterson was born in Minnesota in 1884. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 1905 with a degree in architecture and attended the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris from 1906 to 1909. Returning to San Francisco, he worked in the offices of Daniel Burnham, Willis Polk, and John Galen Howard, as well as with Bernard Maybeck. He opened his own practice in 1916.

The house exhibits many characteristics of the shingle style, also known as Craftsman or First Bay Tradition. Its shape is a traditional Cape Cod rectangle, with a typical roof pitch and shingled siding. But from this point on, the house is firmly in the Craftsman style. Rather than the evenly spaced side-to-side and up-and-down windows of typical Cape Cod houses, this one's windows are irregularly shaped and randomly placed. The exterior trim pieces do not maintain traditional lines.

On the west side of the house, two windows and an arch penetrate the mass of the brick chimney, the architect's way of contrasting light (windows) with heavy (bricks).

In a break with tradition, the house sits at an angle to the street, but it also parallels the slight bluff in the sunny backyard. Original house plans, dated May 19, 1917, show the front door, on the house's north side, opening into an entry hall with stairs on the right to the second floor. Side-by-side doors at the back of the hall go to the 16½- by 20-foot living room on the right (southwest corner of the house) and the 14- by 16-foot dining room on the left, both of which have fireplaces; an archway connects these rooms. French doors in both rooms face south toward the garden, letting in sunlight. The kitchen, back porch, cook's room

with bath, and a half-bath and coat closet take up the eastern side of the house. A small den with fireplace is on the northwest corner, off the entry hall.

Upstairs are four bedrooms and three baths. The 14- by 20-foot master bedroom has a fireplace and its own bath, as does another bedroom labeled "guest's room."

The floorboards are of 4-inch-wide Douglas fir, walls are lath and plaster, and multipaned windows and French doors have wood frames. The house has a full basement. The freestanding garage is to the east of the house, and a path of bluestone stepping-stones leads to the front entry.

From the specifications, it is clear that the house's original exterior was unstained redwood shingles. The cornices, pergolas, and lattice were also unstained, but all other trim, including window frames as well as veranda and terrace trim, was painted white. The ceilings of the entry and the veranda were varnished wood. Indoors, all kitchen and bathroom woodwork was varnished, and the fir floorboards were waxed.

The house has seen few alterations over the years, except for converting a cook's bedroom to a family room adjacent to the kitchen. The current owners replaced the original garage on the southeast corner of the lot with a new one, which includes a room with bath. They reshingled part of the house, repainted interiors, and replaced linoleum in the kitchen, breakfast room, laundry area, and four of the five bathrooms. Plumbing has been updated, new fixtures installed, and landscaping restored throughout the property.

## THE OWNERS

### **Frederick Erskine Olmsted.** “Fritz”

Olmsted was a nephew of the original landscape planner of Stanford University, Frederick Law Olmsted. He was born in November 1872 in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1894, he graduated from the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, then joined the U.S. Geological Survey in North Carolina. Inspired by Gifford Pinchot, America’s first professionally trained forester, who rose to national prominence as a conservationist and political progressive under the patronage of President Theodore Roosevelt, Olmsted studied forestry at the Biltmore Forest School, received a diploma from the University of Munich in 1899, and also studied in India. He returned to the U.S. and joined the Bureau of Forestry, where he developed plans for timberland owners and directed boundary surveys on forest reserves in the West. When the U.S. Forest Service was established in 1905, he became chief inspector of the field service, later working in this department in California.

In 1909, he married Florence Starbuck du Bois (born in 1874). They had two children, Frederick and Julian.

Olmsted resigned from the Forest Service in 1911 and became a consulting forester with the firm of Fisher and Bryant in Boston. In 1914 he moved back to California and established the Tamalpais Fire Association in Marin County. Five years later, when he became the president of the Society of American Foresters, he advocated for federal regulation over private cutting.

He died in February 1925 at his home, where his children continued to live with their mother. Florence Olmsted was active in the community until 1946, when she apparently moved away. When her brother, Coert du Bois, a career diplomat, died in 1960, she was listed as a survivor, but her death date cannot be found.

Whatever the connection was between Frederick Erskine Olmsted and Stanford that led to his building a house on campus remains a mystery. There is some correspondence from him to David Starr Jordan between 1912, when he left the firm of Fisher, Bryant and Olmsted in Boston, and 1919, when he wrote as president of the Society of American Foresters about a resolution passed by the American Federation of Labor advocating scientific and technical research supported by the federal government. If Jordan responded, there is no record. There is also no evidence that Olmsted was part of the planning and planting of the Arboretum, but when he lived on campus he was listed as “consulting forester,” and perhaps it was in this capacity that he was permitted to build his house.

**Frederick Anderson.** The next owner, who was born in Grosse Ile, Michigan, in January 1889, received his A.B. in 1911 from Stanford, his A.M. from Harvard in 1912, and his Ph.D. in 1915 from Yale. He was a professor in the Department of Romanic Languages at Stanford from 1920 until 1952, serving several years as chairman of the department.

Before returning to Stanford, he taught at Reed College (1912–13), at Sheffield Scientific

School (1913–14), and at Yale (1914–18).

The 1946 *Stanford Register* lists him as living in the house. After his retirement, Professor Anderson lived for several years in Edinburgh, Scotland, returning to California to reside at Huntington Beach, where he died in September 1963. He was survived by his second wife and five children from a previous marriage.

**Robert Macfee Minto.** Minto, who came to Stanford in 1947 as chaplain of the university, moved into the house in 1957 after living on Lasuen Street. He was born in February 1908 in Sutherland, Scotland. In 1929, he earned an A.M. degree at Glasgow University. He awarded a master of sacred theology from Union Theological Seminary in 1933 and was ordained in the Church of Scotland in 1934. After serving as a minister in Scotland and in Penang, Malaya, he and his wife, Mary Whiting Stoakley, and their two young daughters came to Stanford; he remained chaplain until his retirement, in 1973.

He was a master and teacher of Italic script, and his handwritten marriage certificates were much appreciated by couples whom he

married. The Mintos continued to live in the house until their deaths: Rabb Minto in November 1983 and his widow in April 1993. Their daughter Margaret continued to live in the house until it was sold to Oyekunle Olukuton and his wife, Kimberly Bomar, in 1997.

**Oyekunle A. Olukotun.** Olukotun, an associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, was born in London in December 1962. From the University of Michigan, he received three degrees: B.S.E. in electrical engineering in 1985, M.S.E. in computer science and engineering in 1987, and Ph.D. in computer science and engineering in 1991. He came to Stanford in 1991 and is currently director of the Computer Systems Laboratory.

Kimberly Ann Bomar was born in Los Angeles in 1965 and in 1988 received her A.B. magna cum laude in Asian studies at Dartmouth. She received an M.A. in 1990 at the Center for East Asian Studies at Stanford and a J.D. in 1993 from the Stanford Law School. She is currently a full-time mother with a very small legal practice on the side.

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