

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 18 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 8 1 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

House
~~Einstein Residence~~

AND/OR COMMON

Y.W.C.A. Activity Unit

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1600 M Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fresno

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17th

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

CODE
06

COUNTY

Fresno

CODE

019

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Young Women's Christian Association

STREET & NUMBER

1600 M Street

CITY, TOWN

Fresno

VICINITY OF

STATE

California 93721

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

2281 Tulare Street

CITY, TOWN

Fresno, California

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

"Point of Historical Interest", Fresno County

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

California Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites

CITY, TOWN

Department of Parks and Recreation

STATE

Sacramento

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exterior walls of the House are constructed of brick of varying thickness from 12 inches to 18-1/2 inches and believed to be built with double brick walls with an air space between for insulation purposes although the architect's drawings fail to indicate this feature. The exterior finish is plaster directly applied to the exterior face of the brick.

Symmetry of styles and details on the main elevation of the house is obtained not by placing a highly stylized main entrance in the middle, but by a balance of architectural details. The center of the main elevation is emphasized by an elaborate bay window which in turn supports a balcony at the second floor level which has a solid railing penetrated with panels of circular details. The projecting roof over the balcony gives it an additional emphasis by the upward curvature of the roof line.

At the left of the bay window (north end) is a small veranda. Doric columns are used which in turn support an open porch at the second floor. The main roof of the residence is extended to form a roof over the balcony, and is supported by elaborate craftsmen bracketing. The opening in the roof over the balcony is in turn partially covered by a slightly raised section of the main roof. The same architectural detail is repeated on the right side (south end) with the exception the openings between columns on first floor are filled in with windows.

The veranda at the north end is offset to the east and extended southward to the bay window. The main entrance to the house opens off of the offset portion of the veranda. On the south side of the bay window, the detail is similar except that instead of a veranda, the space is incorporated into the living room.

The pergola is located on the north side of the residence and is enclosed by a colonade of Greek doric columns supporting a roof structure of open decorative beams - wood trellisses are incorporated between the columns.

INTERIOR

The asymmetrical plan of the house made a separation possible between the servant's quarters, service areas such as the kitchen, pantry, service halls and stairs, and the family living areas. Climatic conditions in the San Joaquin Valley also affected the plan of the House. The living porch on the first floor has removable windows and sleeping porches off of each bedroom on the second floor have casement windows for winter use and fixed screens for summer use.

The doors are of single panel design. Stair railings, newell posts and balusters are stock units in a modified classical style. All wood trim and paneling is stain and varnish finished adding to the richness of the interiors. Note the rich detail at front entrance and doors opening off the alcove. The French doors with fixed sides lights and transom units over of wood or glass units gives a rich architectural feeling.

See Continuation Sheet.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Edward T. Foulkes

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Einstein House, built in 1912, is both architecturally and historically significant. Architecturally, it is an unusual example of the influence of the English Arts and Crafts Movement on American architecture at the turn of the century. Although the building's fenestration and general massing suggests some Prairie School influence, the overall architectural impact is that of the "English Cottage" translated in American Craftsman terms. The porches and picturesque roof lines -- strong Craftsman elements -- together with the general massing create an "English Cottage" of landmark significance.

This residence at 1600 M Street, Fresno, California is noteworthy not only for its architectural merit, but because it was the home of Louis Einstein, pioneer merchant, banker and civic leader in Fresno County. Born in Germany in 1847, at age 18 he came to America and engaged in the dry goods business in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1866 he made the trip west to San Francisco at the invitation of a relative to work for Wormser Brothers as a bookkeeper. Later he went to Portland, Oregon where he engaged in business. After three years he left Oregon and came to the San Joaquin Valley where in January 1871 he established his permanent home. He became associated with Elias Jacob at Visalia in a general store dealing in "grain, flour and provisions" under the firm name of Jacob and Einstein.

As far back as 1870 Mr. Jacob had a branch store in Fresno County at Centerville in charge of H.D. Silverman. A store at Kingston, a hamlet on the King's River, was established in 1871 at the time Einstein joined the firm. Mr. Einstein was in charge of this store when it was looted in a memorable robber raid by the bandit gang of Vasquez. The village was shot up by the desperadoes and the pursuing villagers and Mr. Einstein was left a gagged and pinioned victim by the robbers.

Shortly after the citizens of Fresno County had voted to move the county seat from Millerton to the new railroad town of Fresno his firm bought the business of Otto Froelich of Fresno in June 1874. For a number of years the Fresno firm was known as the Silverman and Einstein Company. Silverman died in 1877 while Einstein was visiting in Germany. On this trip he renewed his acquaintance with Louis Gundelfinger and encouraged him to come to Fresno. Gundelfinger purchased the Silverman interest, and the name of the firm changed to Louis Einstein Company. In December 1888, the firm formed a stock corporation capitalized at \$200,000.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fresno Morning Republican, Nov. 1914, p. 1.
 Evelyn Eaton to Valerie Comegys, unpublished letter, March 24, 197.
 Lewis Eaton and Evelyn Eaton, interview with Valerie Comegys.
 Paul E. Vandor, History of Fresno County, California, Historic Record Co., Los Angeles, 1919.
 Ben R. Walker, Fresno County Bluebook...Arthur H. Cawston, Fresno, 1946.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2/3 acre. (.69 acre)
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	2 5 0 6 4 0	4 0 6 9 7 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 in Blk 340 of the Town of Fresno. See boundary outline on attached plat.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY (revised in part by staff)

NAME / TITLE

Valerie D. Comegys

August 31, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Young Women's Christian Association

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1600 M Street

TELEPHONE

(209) 237-4701

CITY OR TOWN

Fresno

STATE

California 93721

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

R. M. Miller

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 17, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Charles A. ...

DATE 1-31-78

DATE 1-30-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Fireplace in the living room has a stock classical mantel in form at an entablature supported by Doric columns with wood panel above to the main entablature of the room. Face of fireplace and hearth is brick.

The living room has a full classical entablature complete with cornice, plain frieze and simple architrave. A wood wainscot is used in the living room, window sill height and this motif is continued into main entrance hall.

The dining has an entablature similar to the one in the living. The ceiling of the dining room has beams 24" o.c. running the short length of the room and has a cornice moulding with a profile the same as the cornice at the perimeter of the dining room at the top of the walls. The ceiling between the beams is wood resulting in effect of a continuous wood panel between the wood beams. The 5' 0" high wainscot on the dining room consist of wood panels stained and varnished. This same wainscot is used in the library and dining room. All of the principal bedrooms and sitting room on the second floor have picture mouldings located to line with the top of the typical door trim. Ceiling plaster is carried down to picture mould and wall paper is used on remainder of walls.

All walls in the principal rooms are covered with typical Victorian wall paper.

Ceilings in general are plaster painted.

It is also interesting to note that a summer living room, along with a game room, was located in the basement to take advantage of the cool basement during the hot summer periods. Over a period of years both basement rooms were primarily used for recreational activities.

The attic was originally used as a storage area but over a period of years the attic was transformed into a room referred to as a "Ballroom".

The richness of the interior details reminds one of the interiors of the manor houses of England.

The house has not undergone any alteration, and retains its original setting and appearance.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Like many other early day merchants, Mr. Einstein made the transition from storekeeping to banking when he founded the Bank of Central California in 1887. Einstein, the merchant, had financed the grain, sheep and cattle ranchers during the dry farming era, often carrying their accounts over the bad years until a good season when the total accumulated debt could be paid off. Since he had to finance his customer's needs the establishment of a private bank was a logical step. He served as president of the bank which was capitalized at \$300,000 until his death. He also served as president of the Einstein Investment Company and the First National Bank of Coalinga.

Active in nearly all the early economic developments of Fresno, he supported the first irrigation, gas and street car ventures. He was remembered as a good neighbor and one who was helpful to the moral and civic uplift of the community. He helped in organizing the free library movement and for several years served as a member of the Library Board, being a member when the Carnegie Library was built in 1904. He was a generous benefactor of the library. A patron of the liberal arts and music, he was active in the formation of the Unitarian Church.

Mr. Einstein died in the beautiful home in 1914. He is remembered today as one of the foremost pioneers of Fresno and founder of a family which continues to be prominent in the financial and cultural life of Fresno.

His widow, Eda, and other family members continued to live in the house until her death. The Young Women's Christian Association bought the house for their Activities Building in 1950. It has been in continuous use as organization headquarters and association activities since then. The Einstein family and the Association have been the only owners of the building.

ALLEY

250.0'

LOCKERS

Parking

a.c. paving

compacted earth

150.0'

POOL

arbor

EINSTEIN RESIDENCE
(YWCA)

150.0'

Lawn

Driveway

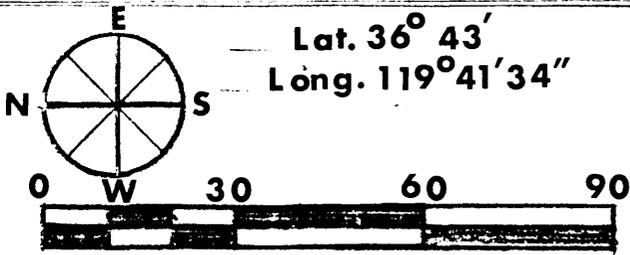
Lawn

250.0'

CALAVERAS STREET

Lat. $36^{\circ} 43'$
Long. $119^{\circ} 41' 34''$

M STREET



EINSTEIN RESIDENCE
(YWCA ACTIVITY BUILDING)