

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **JUL 29 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Carter W. Gibbes House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2233 North Alvarado N/A not for publication

city, town Phoenix N/A vicinity of

state Arizona code 04 county Maricopa code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Timothy J. and Linda L. Hurst

street & number 2233 North Alvarado

city, town Phoenix N/A vicinity of state Arizona

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Maricopa County Recorder's Office

street & number 111 S. Third Avenue

city, town Phoenix state Arizona

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Carter W. Gibbes House is among the finest examples of Period Revival houses built in Phoenix in the 1920s and 1930s. The house is located in the Alvarado Neighborhood, an elite residential area that was developed in the 1920s and 1930s as a suburb of Phoenix. It is now within the city's central core. The elegant character of the neighborhood is established by well-manicured, mature landscaping, original low-scale, ornamental street lights, landscaped medians, and a mixture of well-executed architectural styles, including Spanish Colonial Revival, English Cottage Revival, and other Period Revival idioms.

Constructed on a large corner lot, the house is laid out in an L-shape, creating a backdrop for the rear courtyard, pool, and garden. The main portion of the house, facing west, is two stories high, whereas the north wing is somewhat lower, about one-and-one-half stories. This north wing is broken near the east end by a gabled passageway, which contains a portcullis, leading from the north street entrance into the courtyard.

The exterior of the main portion of the house consists of cut local tufa stone laid in a random ashlar bond at the first story and half-timbers infilled with plaster at the second story. The north wing is constructed of half-timbering infilled with red brick. The house is roofed entirely with imported English clay tiles of random widths and lengths, the colors of which complement the neighboring Spanish clay tile rooftops. At the west facade, a two-story bay window with leaded diamond glass panes serves as the focal point.

On the interior, the two-story, central block contains a full-height living room. To the south of the living room are two bedroom suites, one on each floor, and a small servant's quarters in the attic. To the north of the living room is a formal dining room. An enclosed porch spans the area along the rear of the living and dining rooms.

The north wing contains the kitchen, the family room and breakfast nook, the laundry room, and the guests' quarters (originally a garage). The interior remains in its original configuration, although the function of some rooms has changed.

The two-story living room, originally designed as an acoustic setting for a built-in organ (no longer in place), derives its Tudor character from its spacious proportions, hand-adzed ceiling beams, balconies, wall finishes, and cut and dressed limestone floor. The east and west walls are finished with cut and dressed travertine up to the ten-foot elevation; above the travertine, the walls and the expansive sloped ceiling are composed of half-timbers infilled with plaster. The junction of these two finishes is delineated by crown molding surmounted by ornamental cresting carved in a rich Gothic design. The north and south walls are sheathed in wood, with built-in bookcases. The wooden panels extend upwards to form a carved railing for the balconies. Other original features in the living room include a fireplace characterized by a Tudor-arched opening and Gothic moldings, a wrought-iron, spiral staircase leading to the north balcony, and gargoyles set in niches in each corner at plate height.

Passing through a Tudor arch at the north end of the living room, one enters the dining room. Significant features include diamond paned, casement windows, a cut and dressed limestone floor, and an opulent, molded plaster ceiling. The ceiling's grid pattern and rosettes are reminiscent of the ceilings of a rococo drawing room.

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Two pairs of steel casement, six-light French doors open from the living room to the rear porch, now enclosed with glass. This porch features local tufa stone walls laid in a random ashlar bond, a rustic cut-stone fireplace, and an inlaid stone chessboard set in the tile floor.

Another original feature present in the house is a free-standing, claw-footed bathtub/shower combination. This unusual fixture features five shower heads and glass panels around the tub to catch the spray of water.

The Gibbes House is in excellent condition and has undergone few modifications over the years. Alterations to the kitchen and bathrooms were made in 1950 and again in the late 1970s, and the built-in organ was removed in the early 1970s. In several of the bedrooms, new floor coverings and wall paper have been added. Nevertheless, the house possesses a high degree of integrity and all of its original Period Revival charm.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1930

Builder/Architect Neil H. Gates, builder;

probably Carter W. Gibbes, designer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Carter W. Gibbes House is significant as an outstanding example of Tudor Revival architecture in Phoenix. Probably designed by the owner in concert with the builder, Neil H. Gates, it is a highly personalized house into which Gibbes, an interior designer, used his talent to create an impression of another time and place. The artful manipulation of textures, color, space, and forms within a Period Revival context creates a romantic atmosphere rarely achieved in residential architecture.

By 1930, when the Gibbes House was constructed, Period Revival architecture was enormously popular in Phoenix, particularly among the wealthy elite. Entire upper-income neighborhoods such as Encanto, Palmcroft, Country Club Place, La Hacienda, Alhambra, and Alvarado were designed in the late 1920s and early 1930s as picturesque havens from the industrialized world, featuring romantic Spanish Colonial Revival, English Cottage Revival, and other Period Revival homes. Most of these houses are not historically accurate interpretations; rather, they allude to historical precedent through their massing and a few well chosen details. Oftentimes, the Period Revival architecture of this era combines an eclectic assortment of period motifs for a romanticized, artistic effect.

The Gibbes House is the epitome of this picturesque movement in Phoenix. A garden setting for the "manor house" is created by the spacious, well manicured lawn, the meandering, hedge-lined, flagstone walkway to the front entrance, and the rear courtyard. The romantic mood of the Elizabethan country house is further carried out by the asymmetrical massing, the roof of multicolored clay tiles cut in random widths and lengths, the use of half-timbering, the juxtaposition of wall textures (tufa stone, brick, and plaster), the portcullis, and the prominent, ornate bay window.

Unlike many Period Revival houses, whose interiors were designed along "modern" rather than period lines, the Gibbes House continues the period motif throughout the major rooms with an eclectic blend of period elements, including the roccoco dining room ceiling and the living room gargoyles. The Tudor theme is most evident in the living room, which features half-timbering, Tudor-arched doorways, and a Tudor-detailed fireplace.

Interestingly, in October 1930, when the house was completed, the Arizona Republican revealed that the dramatic proportions and material finishes of the living room were carefully designed not only to create an Elizabethan mood but also to enhance the room's acoustics for a built-in Wurlitzer pipe organ.

"Most homes are built around an ideal, and in this instance the ideal is an organ, so the spacious hall or living room is of goodly proportions with lofty ceiling and hand-adzed timber. The best of acoustic properties was attained by the organ engineers.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less/acre

Quadrangle name Phoenix Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	2	6	7	7	5	0	3	5	6	8	8	2	5
Zone		Easting					Northing						

B

Zone		Easting					Northing						

C

Zone		Easting					Northing						

D

Zone		Easting					Northing						

E

Zone		Easting					Northing						

F

Zone		Easting					Northing						

G

Zone		Easting					Northing						

H

Zone		Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Alvarado Place East, Lot 9.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marsha L. Weisiger, Architectural Historian, and Don W. Ryden, Historical Architect

organization Gerald A. Doyle & Associates

date April, 1982

street & number 4331 N. 12th Street

telephone 264-3082

city or town Phoenix

state Arizona

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

Donna Schover

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 29, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Allous Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/25/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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"The organ chamber was placed 10 feet above the living room floor at one end of the room and the console at the other, and recessed in a roodscreen of gothic design. The screen supports a balcony across the south end of the room. The floor of this room is of limestone with walls up to the 10-foot elevation of travatine [sic]. From there up they are half-timber and plaster."¹

Although the balconies and roodscreen (which forms the railing for the south balcony) still exist, the pipe organ itself was removed and sold by a former owner of the house. At that time, the bellows and blower, contained in the cellar beneath the kitchen, were also removed. The cellar has been remodeled into a wine cellar.

One of the most striking aspects of the living room is the effective use of wood, both structural and ornamental, to create a Tudor effect. According to oral tradition, the builder brought three carpenters from Europe to construct the half-timbering, roof trusses, and casework. Evidence of highly skilled craftsmanship includes the use of mortise and tenon connections, rather than nails, to join the heavy wood timbers of the living room. These heavy timbers reportedly are vertical-grain fir imported from the Black Forest of Bavaria.

Gibbes, who lived at 2233 North Alvarado until about 1945, apparently designed the house, with technical assistance from Neil H. Gate, builder,² as a showcase for his interior design talents. Gibbes, with his wife, Helen S. George Gibbes, was the proprietor of an interior design studio in Phoenix from about 1928 until about 1946. He used the opportunity occasioned by a feature article in the Arizona Republican entitled "Pipe Organ Furnishes Motif for Old English Type Home," to promote his studio with two prominent advertisements. One of these announced "the installation of a residence pipe organ" by the Carter W. Gibbes Studio (Gibbes was the state distributor for the Wurlitzer Organ Company). The second ad trumpeted, "Pictured on this page is the new home of Mr. and Mrs. Carter W. Gibbes....This home embodies all of the new features in building and offers many new ideas....[the house] may be seen by appointment."³ Additionally, advertisements were taken out by companies that supplied materials and services for the house.

The Gibbes House represents a highly personalized interpretation of the Tudor Revival style. Although a few alterations have been made, most notably the removal of the organ and the modification of the kitchen and bathrooms, the house is largely intact. It remains one of the best examples of Tudor Revival architecture in Phoenix.

¹Arizona Republican, October 26, 1930, III:13.

²Nothing about Gates' architectural career is known. He apparently resided in Phoenix for less than five years.

³Arizona Republican, October 26, 1930, III:13.

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Hurst, Linda, oral interview, 1982.

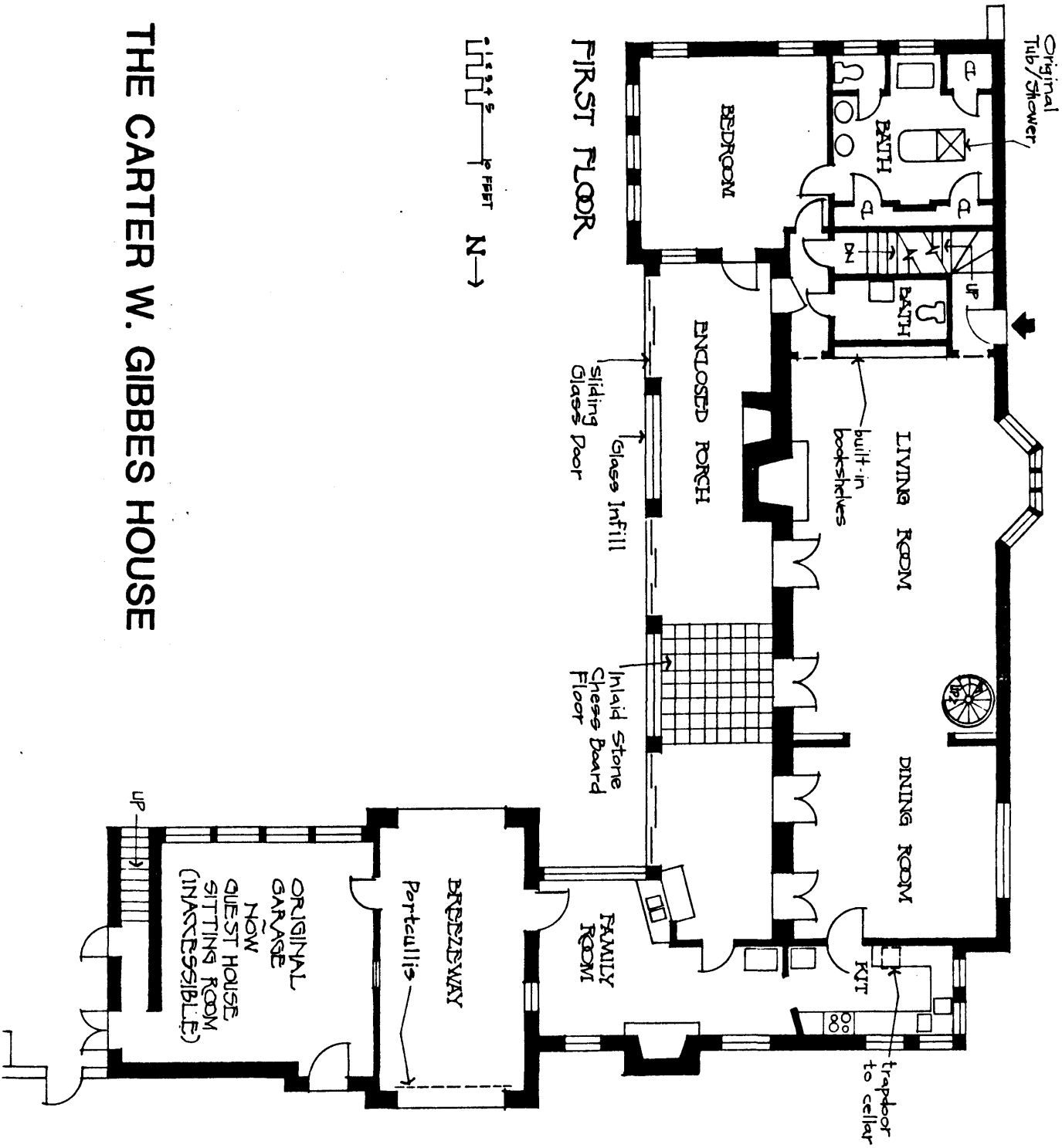
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Phoenix City Directories, 1929-1975.

Rifkind, Carole. A Field Guide to American Architecture. New York: New American Library, 1980.

Warranty Deed between William P. and Emma K. Reynolds, grantors, and Helen S. Gibbes, grantee, April 4, 1930.



THE CARTER W. GIBBES HOUSE

SECOND FLOOR

