

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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

N/A

AND/OR COMMON

MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

226 and 228 E. Adele, 303, 307, 317, 321 N. Philadelphia St.

CITY, TOWN

N/A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Anaheim,

N/A VICINITY OF

39

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Orange

059

**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

N/A

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See Continuation Sheet, Item 4, page 2

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Orange County Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

630 N. Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Santa Ana

STATE

California 92701

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Resources Survey

DATE

1982

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Community Development Department

CITY, TOWN

Anaheim,

STATE

California, 92805

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE 226 E. Adele

ORIGINAL SITE 303, 317, 307  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 228 E. Adele (1912)  
 321 N. Philadelphia (1911)

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Melrose-Backs Neighborhood is comprised of a group of six historically and architecturally significant homes facing on two streets in an ell-shape. At one time the entire property was owned by one family. Starting with the houses at the corner of Adele and Emily, the family progressed its way around the corner and down Hedwig (now Philadelphia St.), building these homes between 1903 and 1914. This was a family neighborhood with the Kuechels, the Melroses and the Backs families being represented here for 95 years.

#### Starting at the corner of Emily and Adele:

Melrose-Kuechel Houses No. 1 and 2: 226 and 228 E. Adele (simplified Greek Revival, one story) These two houses were originally one and evidence shows that they were built in the early 1860's. In 1912 the house was split in half and one portion quarter-turned to allow a side porch to become a front porch facing E. Adele.

House No. 1: The front porch and west facade (facing Emily) are original, according to the sketch drawn by Mr. Glover (The sketch was of the entire town of Anaheim with the streets named and was turned into a lithograph). The entire house is of ship lap siding and evidence of the use of square nails is seen throughout the house. The house was increased in size during the 1880's and two additions were added onto the back. The roofline was changed at this time. A marble fireplace, typical of those used in the 70's and 80's is located in the room that is now in the southeast corner. The only recognizable alteration is the bay window added to the north (front) facade about 1915. The rest of the windows in the house are long and narrow with two panes of glass at the top and two at the bottom. This house is the only rental and in the poorest condition of the group.

House No. 2: This house is also constructed with the same shiplap siding, (under the asbestos siding) enclosed eaves and steep gables. Some of the same two-over-two windows can be seen in this house, and the original bay window is located in the west facade of this house. The windows in the front (north) facade are double-hung wood sash windows, ca. 1910. The owners have restored the interior of the home and have plans to start on the exterior. Garages which appear to be ca. 1890's are located behind these two houses, but do not show on the early maps.

#### House No. 3: Fred Backs Honeymoon Cottage (321 N. Philadelphia)

Single story Craftsman house. It was built in 1903 facing Adele St. and was turned to face Hedwig (Philadelphia St) in 1911. This created an extra lot and brought the side of the house next to Mrs. Backs' parents home. Walks were built so that Mother and Daughter could cross directly to each others houses on that side, coming from French doors in their dining rooms. The most unique feature of this house is the 42 diamond-paned windows located throughout the house. Twin slant-bay windows are located on each side of the front door and the bay is recreated on the south side with French doors and windows. An addition built in 1929 matches the siding and window trim. The interior has coved ceilings, carved Douglas Fir woodwork with egg-and-dart trim on the cornice, an early Arts and Crafts fireplace with a cabinet in the top, a later tile fireplace with a red brass gas heater dated 1917, and ornate red brass hardware. A kitchen addition and a wooden patio deck and cover have been added to the back of the house. The garage was built before 1922 and matches the house.

#### House No. 4: Fred Backs Jr. House (317 N. Philadelphia)

A Craftsman home with Oriental influences and built in 1907-08, this house has shingle siding, wide low gables, exposed beam ends, wide overhangs, and heavy brackets. These

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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"/> XOTHER (SPECIFY) Family neighborhood
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      1903-1914                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the roots of the Melrose-Backs Neighborhood go back to the early 1860's, the majority of the settlement activity which established the neighborhood occurred between 1903 and 1914. Therefore this is the era of significance emphasized here. Five of the houses are associated with three prominent related families and are located at 307, 317, and 321 N. Philadelphia and 226 and 228 E. Adele. The house at 303 N. Philadelphia was built on property purchased from Melrose by his friend and law partner, Judge Homer Ames. In the 1860's Conrad Kuechel was the first member of the family to settle on the property. He was influential in the founding of Anaheim in 1857. His daughter and son-in-law, Richard Melrose, purchased the property from the Kuechel estate in 1883. Richard Melrose went on to serve his community, his state, and his country in several roles: City attorney, Postmaster, newspaper publisher and editor, City Councilman, Anaheim Union Water Company board member, tax guager, State Assemblyman, Presidential Elector, and Chairman of the Board of the State Normal School in Los Angeles ( now U. C. L. A.) were some of the positions and occupations held by him during his fifty-four years in Anaheim. He lived in the houses at 307 and 317 N. Philadelphia and 226 and 228 E. Adele. A prominent businessman, Fred Backs Jr., married the Melrose's daughter, Jessie, in 1903. They remained in the neighborhood all of their married lives, occupying the houses at 317 and 321 N. Philadelphia. This neighborhood is the only family neighborhood in Anaheim with all of its houses still standing. There are no intrusions and few alterations which are visable from the street. The homes, starting with the two oldest houses at the corner of Adele and Emily, represent a unique panorama of architectural styles and tell the story of three generations of Anaheim citizens and their daily lives.

### CONRAD AND SAMANTHA KUECHEL

Conrad Kuechel (now spelled Kuchel) was one of the seven Directors appointed at the first Los Angeles Vineyard Society meeting held in San Francisco in 1857. A group of fifty families, hoping to find a healthier environment for their children, hired George Hansen to purchase and prepare a vineyard community somewhere in the area south of Los Angeles. Their courage was particularly inspiring because none of them had any experience at growing grapes and making wine. Upon arriving in Anaheim Mr. Kuechel already had title to 20 acres planted to grapes, the property having been drawn in a lottery with the other families. Some time before his death on October 6, 1870, he purchased the lots on Adele and Philadelphia (then called Hedwig) Street. An 1876 drawing of the town by a Mr. Glover shows the house as the only one on the block. Conrad's widow, Samantha, lived in the neighborhood until her death. Their grandson is former U. S. Senator, Tom Kuchel. The Kuechel's daughter, Mary, married Richard Melrose in 1874 and Richard Melrose began his life in the neighborhood.

### RICHARD AND MARY MELROSE

Richard Melrose arrived from Scotland in 1864 as an orphan of 14, and settled in Los Angeles. He worked for the U. S. Army at Wilmington and in 1865 he saw Anaheim

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached: Major Bibliographical References Page 2, Section 9

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.04 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Anaheim

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 415690 3744450

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property No. 1: 226 E. Adele, Lot runs 112.5 feet south from the corner of Emily and Adele. Turning east, the property runs for 48 ft. to the corner, turns north for 112.5 feet and returns to the corner by going west on Adele for 48 feet.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Diann Marsh, Preservation Chairman

May 20, 1982

ORGANIZATION

Anaheim Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 247

714-635-9249

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Anaheim,

STATE

California 92805

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*K. Miller*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/1/83

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*William B. Bushong*

DATE

4/3/86

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET Owners

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1. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harrison (residents)  
303 N. Philadelphia St.  
Anaheim, CA 92805
2. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Greico (residents)  
307 N. Philadelphia  
Anaheim, CA 92805
3. Allen Bartelt (resident)  
317 N. Philadelphia  
Anaheim, CA 92805
4. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marsh (residents)  
321 N. Philadelphia  
Anaheim, CA 92805
5. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Carbonell (residents)  
228 E. Adele St.  
Anaheim, CA 92805
6. Stella Nevaretti (landlord)  
1615 Tyrol  
Anaheim, CA 92805

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heavy brackets and gables are repeated on the north and south sides of these facades, as well as on the front. Concrete porch and steps are sheathed in brick. A column supporting a small covered porch on the southwest corner was created of rough plaster for the purpose of growing ivy or vines. A small room located in the south facade, toward the rear of the house, was originally a gentleman's smoking room. The front portion of the house remains unaltered, but an addition was added to the rear in 1968. This addition is barely visible from the street and uses the same shingle siding, casement windows, French doors, beam ends and roof pitch as the original house. A matching garage was built with the house. The interior of this house features fine woodwork, brass hardware, boxed-beam ceilings, and hardwood floors. The brick fire place in the living room is flanked by glass-fronted bookcases. A wide arch leads to the dining room which features another fire place with heavy carved fireplace front and matching built-in buffet. The wallpaper in this room is of gold damask which appears as different patterns when viewed from different directions. This house is in very good condition.

### House No. 5: Melrose House (307 N. Philadelphia)

This Craftsman style home has distinctive Tudor features and shapes. Built in 1914 it has shingles on the lower floor and stucco with wooden accents on the upper half story. Fine detailing around the windows and doors illustrates the excellent craftsmanship used in building the house. The casement windows on the upper floor open in and those on the lower floor open out for easier window cleaning. A prominent portico shelters the front door and the marble-floored porch. A port cochere to the north side is supported by round classical columns and has an original wicker porch swing hanging in the north side. There is a matching garage to the northeast corner of the property. The interior of the house has large rooms with craftsman features. Two large fireplaces located in the south wall of the living room and dining room are faced with mottled, glazed tiles, typical of the period. A long, built-in china cabinet with stained glass doors and a beveled mirror fills one entire wall of the dining room and bookcases flank the living room fireplace. Boxed beam ceilings, wainscoting, a wide stairway and hardwood floors are all original. This house has received no exterior alterations with the exception of the wood panel which replaces the glass in the front door.

### House No. 6: Judge Ames House (303 N. Philadelphia)

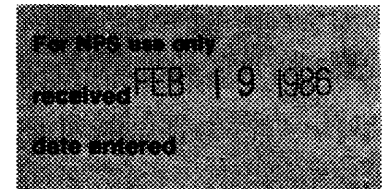
Built in 1911 by Judge Homer Ames, Melrose's law partner, this Craftsman style home bears a subtle Oriental influence. Although small, it is of good design and careful craftsmanship. Clapboard siding, low, wide gables, exposed beam ends, a clinker brick fireplace, and Oriental trim around and on the casement windows are accented by a heavy portico supported by heavy brackets. A matching garage was built after the house, before 1922, and matches the house in materials, shape and architecture.

The house at 327 N. Philadelphia is not included here because its owners were not related to the family. A California Bungalow built in 1922, it does contribute to the continuity of styles in the neighborhood.

Each of these homes is unique in design in our city. This was a family neighborhood with walks between the houses and fish ponds and gardens in the back yards. In our time and place this represents an important feature of the past.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Summary paragraph:

The Melrose-Backs Neighborhood is significant for its notable turn of the century architecture including several individually distinguished examples of Craftsman bungalows. It is also significant for its historical origins as a family neighborhood connected with the break-up of the Anaheim settlement colony. When the original colony failed, the founders disbanded into a number of smaller enclaves which became "family neighborhoods." The "family neighborhood" was a vestige of German agrarian culture -- a tradition shared by the German founders of the town of Anaheim. A kind of external extended family, this kind of neighborhood was once common in Anaheim. Today the Melrose-Backs neighborhood is the best surviving example from that early German tradition. The neighborhood was also the home of a number of individuals prominent in local history, many of them related by blood or marriage and connected with the original founders of the town. The house at 303 N. Philadelphia (the Ames House) has been included because of its close association with the Melrose-Backs family and because it is individually eligible under Criterion B.

The Melrose-Backs Neighborhood and its significance to the founding and settlement pattern of Anaheim can be traced to the very beginnings of the city. Anaheim was founded in 1857 in San Francisco by a group of German families (eventually 50 families would join the "Los Angeles Vineyard Society"). They hired George Hansen to go to Southern California and purchase lands for grape growing. This illustrated a certain element of confidence, as none of the families had ever grown grapes before, but were businessmen and merchants. They were anxious to get their families away from "decadent" San Francisco and raise their children in the proper German way. Hansen purchased the tract of land from the Ontiveros family, surveyed the property and set up 20 acre plots for each family and several blocks of town lots (individual lots for each family to have a townhouse). He planted the grapes, built a willow fence around the town, built a wooden house for himself and an adobe store and bunk room on the main street. In November of 1859 the first families arrived. Strict German mores were the rule in Anaheim up through the 1880s. In 1886 the "Anaheim Disease" struck the vineyards and most of the vineyards were destroyed. By 1890 the colony realized that they could not survive with their policy of allowing only certain people to settle in Anaheim, and the town was opened up for anyone who cared to invest. Up through the 1950s, however, the city retained its German attitudes and closeness. In the mid-1950s some of the churches still had German church services for their German speaking members.

As each family drew for the location of their 20 acres and town lot, some were unhappy with their properties. Due to economic circumstances, several of the original pioneers subdivided their 20 acres soon after arriving in town. Others took one look and went straight back to San Francisco. There was a significant amount of trading of lots. Conrad Kuechel, as one of the original

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when he came here in search of deserters. In 1870 he returned to Anaheim to stay. In 1872 he acquired the Anaheim Gazette, then only two years old and the first newspaper in Orange County. He studied to become a lawyer and in 1877 was admitted to the California Bar Association. He became a strong water rights lawyer and acted as an attorney and member of the Board of the Anaheim Union Water Company. He wrote a booklet entitled: Anaheim, Southern California: Its History, Climate, Soil, and Advantages for Homesteaders and Settlers. He was well known for his speaking and writing abilities. He received his commission as Postmaster in July of 1884, was appointed Internal Revenue Guager in October of 1890, a Census Enumerator in May of 1880, and was given a banquet by the citizens of Anaheim on October 31, 1887. He served as City Attorney for Anaheim for several years and served on the Board of Trustees (City Council). Soon after the turn of the century, he began to move up in state politics, and became prominent in the Republican Party.

In the 1904 Presidential election, he was chosen as an elector from the Eighth Congressional District. One year later Governor Pardee appointed him to the Board of the Los Angeles Normal School which covered much of Southern California. He served for fourteen years on the District Board and became Chairman in 1910. In this capacity he presided over the public auction which sold the old State Normal buildings and land at 5th and Grand in Los Angeles. He also presided in that same year, 1913, in the groundbreaking for the new buildings on a parcel of land surrounded by Willowbrook, Vermont, Heliotrope and Melrose (named after him) Avenues. His position on the school board continued until 1919 when the school became part of the State school system. In 1927 the school became U. C. L. A officially.

In November of 1906 he was elected to the State Assembly as the representative from the 77th District. While serving in Sacramento Melrose played a major role in the outcome of one of the hottest controversies of the time. The Drew Bill, which discriminated sharply against Japanese living in this country, was strongly opposed by Melrose and his faction. It prohibited the Japanese from owning property and segregated them in the schools. In the summer of 1909 President Teddy Roosevelt, of whom Melrose was a strong supporter, acknowledged his gratitude to Melrose for "defeating this bill and upholding the National honor." Richard Melrose was a friend of Phillip Stanton, who also served in the State Assembly and founded three surrounding communities. Melrose was at one time planning to run for the U. S. Senate, but never attained the goal. He owned property around the county and participated in the development of Anaheim and Placentia. Melrose Street in Anaheim is named for him and Melrose Avenue in Placentia was built in 1910. He had purchased the land in Placentia in 1887 and on September 19, 1910 filed the Plat of the Townsite of Placentia in partnership with his friend, A. S. Bradford. He was active there until he sold out in 1913.

Mary Melrose died in 1921 on their forty-seventh wedding anniversary and Richard Melrose died in 1924. Their two daughters, Winifred and Jessie, resided in the neighborhood the rest of their natural lives.

### FRED BACKS JR. AND JESSIE MELROSE BACKS

In 1903 Jessie Melrose married Fred Backs Jr. and moved into a home he built immediately to the east of the Melrose's home on Adele. Fred was a descendant of Louisa Werder Backs



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who arrived in Anaheim with her family at the age of two in 1859. Her father, Herman, was one of the original fifty pioneers who founded Anaheim. Ferdinand Backs Sr. (Fred's father) arrived in Anaheim in 1867 and founded the first undertaking parlour and furniture store in the area. Fred Jr. worked for the family firm for a few years and then went into the mortuary business in Anaheim. In 1912 he became a partner in the firm of Backs and Terry, Undertakers and this firm still exists as Backs-Kaulbers Mortuary. In 1919 he is listed as a member of the City Council and in 1924 became Executive Officer of the new Savings and Loan Association, in addition to his undertaking duties.

HOMER AMES

Richard Melrose's law partner was Homer Ames who built the house at 303 in 1911, after purchasing the land from Melrose. He served three terms as Judge of the Superior Court and was prominent in Anaheim politics and civic organizations.

HOUSE NO. 1- Melrose-Kuechel House No. 1

The earliest visual documentation of the house is in the drawing of the town of Anaheim by Mr. Glover in 1876. Some time in the 1880's several additions to the house were made. Mr. Kuechel died in 1870, but his widow, Samantha, lived on in the house with her children. In January of 1883 the property was purchased from the estate of Conrad Kuechel by his son-in-law, Richard Melrose. He and his wife lived in the house until 1907. The home was sold in October of 1907 to A. H. Horowitz of Orange for \$8000.

HOUSE NO. 2- Melrose-Kuechel House No. 2

The history of this house is the same as above until 1912 when it was split off and moved to its own site. The evidence seems to show that the house was quarter-turned and the side porch became the front porch, placing the original gable and bay window on the west side. An addition was added across the back.

HOUSE NO. 3- Fred Backs Jr. Honeymoon Cottage

Built in 1903 as the first home of Fred and Jessie Melrose Backs, this house originally faced Adele St. to the east of the Melrose home. In 1911 it was turned to face Hedwig (now Philadelphia) Street. Richard and Mary Melrose had already moved next door to their new home at 317 and the French doors in the dining rooms of both houses faced each other. Sidewalks were built so that Mother and Daughter could pass back and forth to each other's houses. In 1914 the Fred Backs family moved into 317 when it was vacated by the Melroses. The Phillip Germann family occupied the house for awhile. It was sold to the Olin Steward family in 1923. Olin Steward was at various times City Engineer, City Manager, Gas Inspector and Street Superintendent. His daughter, Katherine, was a fine pianist. She lived in the house for 45 years.

HOUSE NO. 4- Fred Backs Jr. House

Built in 1907 by Richard Melrose, this house, with its fine interior, was the residence of the family while Melrose was in the State Assembly. After living there for seven years Mrs. Melrose decided that a two-story house would be better for her asthma problems and they built the house at 307. Fred and Jessie moved from 321 and spent the rest of their natural lives in the house.

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**HOUSE NO. 5- Melrose House**

In 1914 A. E. Straehle built this sumptuous house for Richard Melrose for \$8000. They and their unmarried daughter, Winifred, took residence in the 3600 square foot house, and it remained their residence for the rest of their natural lives. Mrs. Melrose died in 1921 on their forty-seventh wedding anniversary and Mr. Melrose died in 1924. Winifred continued to live in the house until she went to a rest home in the 1960's. At that time the house was sold to the present owners.

**HOUSE NO. 6- Judge Ames House**

Built by Melrose's law partner in 1911, this house served as the Ames family home for many years. The Larsens, owners of Hometown Printers, resided there for almost 30 years until it was purchased by the present owners in the late 1970's.

**PHILADELPHIA STREET**

In 1914 Hedwig Street became Philadelphia Street. Hedwig, along with other obviously German names, was changed because of anti-German sentiment prior to World War I.

The Melrose-Backs Neighborhood was a true family neighborhood and its residents played a strong role in Anaheim history.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Orange County men sitting on the bench of the Superior Court and was known for his insistence on proper procedure. He died May 13, 1939, and his wife continued to live in the house they built on Philadelphia Street for several years afterward.

(Other references in Leo Friis, At the Bar, 1982, and Who's Who on the Pacific Coast: A Biographical Compilation of Notable Living Contemporaries West of the Rocky Mountains, 1913.)

O.E. Steward (lived at 321 N. Philadelphia Street from 1923 to 1935)

O.E. Steward lived in the house on North Philadelphia Street from 1923 until his premature death in April of 1935 in an automobile accident while on a trip with others to inspect Parker Dam.

He was Anaheim's first City Manager in 1919 and is listed in the 1922 City Directory as "City Manager and Ex-Officio Superintendant of Streets." He made a substantial contribution to the citizens of Anaheim through his work in flood control and the outfall sewer line. As tracts were opening to housing in Anaheim during the early twenties, the situation was desperate. Anaheim's failure to establish a sewer farm in Stanton required a new plan. O.E. Steward, who was also an engineer, and his neighbor, Fred Backs, backed and saw to completion a \$600,000 bond issue to build the outfall sewer line. During his tenure with the city, O.E. Steward served as Anaheim's representative to the League of the Southwest. City planning became generally recognized as an important component in the development of cities during his time as City Manager. He strongly supported the extension of highways through Anaheim and Orange County from Los Angeles. Active in city development during a significant period in the city's growth, O.E. Steward did much to shape Anaheim's future.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography

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1. Historic Buildings of Pioneer Anaheim Leo Friis
2. Historical Volume and Reference Works Talbert R 979.496
3. City Directories 1903, 1908, 1915, 1916, 1923
4. Sanborn Insurance Maps for 1907, 1911, and 1922
5. Lithograph by Mr. Glover
6. Melrose Scrapbooks: Certificates of Mr. Melroses Offices and Accomplishments,  
Numerous newspaper articles, and personal letters to Mr. Melrose,  
Articles from the newspaper telling of parties and social events  
at the houses, especially during the years ca. 1885 to 1905.
7. Interview with Florence Backs Powers who was born in the house at 321 N. Philadelphia  
and grew up at 317 N. Philadelphia
8. Interview with George Kohlenberger, lifelong resident of the neighborhood
9. Placentia, A Pleasant Place Virginia Carpenter
10. Anaheim's Colorful Heritage Anaheim Historical Society publication
11. Anaheim's Architectural Treasury Anaheim Historical Society publication
12. Anaheim Historical Society House Tour book for 1979
13. Article by Mark Wray, Anaheim Bulletin, July 1975
14. Anaheim Gazettes February 11, 1909, February 25, 1909, October 3, 1912, November  
14, 1912, Weekly Gazette, January 20, 1883

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical      ITEM NUMBER 10      PAGE 2

Property No. 2: 228 E. Adele St: Property starts 48 feet from the corner of Emily and Adele. It turns south for 112.5 feet from the starting point, goes east for 48 feet, turns north for 112.5 feet and goes west for 48 feet to the starting point.

Property No. 3: 321 N. Philadelphia St., Starts at a point 63.5 feet from the corner of Adele and Philadelphia. It goes west from this starting point for 120 feet, turns south for 45 feet, turns east for 120 feet, and returns to the starting point by going north for 45 feet.

Property No. 4. 317 N. Philadelphia: Starts 124.5 feet from the corner of Adele and Philadelphia. Going west it runs for 120 feet. Turning south it runs for 99 feet. Turning east it goes for 120 feet, and returns to starting point by going north for 99 feet.

Property No. 5: 307 N. Philadelphia; Starting at a point 72 feet from the corner of Cypress and N. Philadelphia, it goes north across the front for 88.5 feet. Turning west for 120 feet the property jogs 19.5 feet to the south and 14.5 to the east before turning south for 69 feet. Turning east it returns to the starting point after going 105.5 feet.

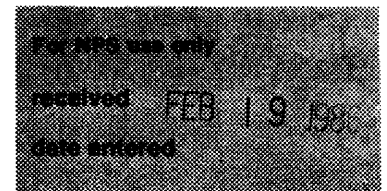
Property No. 6. 303 N. Philadelphia: Begins on the corner of Cypress and Philadelphia and goes north across the front for 72 feet before turning east for 105.5 feet. Turning south for 72 feet, it turns east for 105.5 feet.

Assessors Parcels: 35-117-01, 02, 03. 04. 06. and 07.

The overall boundary begins at the southeast corner of Emily and Adele Streets, east 96 feet, south 63.5 feet, east 120 feet, south 304.5 feet, west 105.5 feet, north 143 feet, east 14.5 feet, north 114.5 feet, west 96 feet and north 112.5 feet to point of beginning.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Significance Appendix

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50 pioneers, as well as a member of the first Board of Directors, sold much of his property and retained the block bounded by Adele, Emily, Philadelphia, and Cypress. He sold off the lots along one side (Emily) and one lot facing Cypress. This left him with his house on the corner of Adele and Emily and empty lots along Adele and Philadelphia. When his daughter became engaged, he sold the lot to the east to her fiancée. Eventually, he divided the lots facing the two streets and built houses there, selling one lot to his partner, Honer Ames. It became a true "family neighborhood."

Because of its original layout, Anaheim once had several family neighborhoods. None was as significant as the Melrose-Backs neighborhood, however, because of the number of civic-minded and involved people. At one time the four houses on Philadelphia contained the families of the City Attorney (Ames), an ex-state legislator and prominent politician (Melrose), an Anaheim city councilman (Fred Backs, Jr.), and Anaheim's first City Manager (Olin Steward). This was the most powerful street in Anaheim. Other family neighborhoods included:

- Fred Backs Sr. houses: 2 houses -- one has burned down, one is standing.
- Renner Neighborhood: 2 houses -- both remaining. The Renners were clothing merchants.
- Weisel Neighborhood: 4 houses -- one was moved, one demolished and two remain.
- McCauley houses: 2 houses -- both remain. McCauley was a funeral director.
- Kroeger Neighborhood: 3 houses -- two were demolished and one is to be moved.
- Rudd houses: 2 houses -- both remain.
- Rimpau Neighborhood: bungalow court and two houses. Both houses were substantially altered.
- Morley Neighborhood: One altered Queen Anne, one Craftsman Bungalow, and one house (destroyed).

Architecture

Each of the houses in this group is unique in its style and period. 226-228 E. Adele: Anaheim has few surviving houses built during the 1870s and 80s. The redwood lumber used to build this house was shipped from Northern California aboard a freighter, loaded into a smaller boat in San Pedro harbor, carried through the breakers on the backs of Indians, and taken by wagon to Anaheim. The only other early house of this style was located two blocks up the street. Called the Old Backs House, it was listed in the National Register until it burned in January of 1984. The bay window on the west side of the house at 228 E. Adele is the only one of its style in existence in Anaheim today. The division and turning of this house also raises another point -- the frugal nature and "waste not" attitude of the German community. We have so few old houses in Anaheim -- each one is important. This house still remains in its original setting.

The house at 321 N. Philadelphia is unique in style and contains the best use of diamond-paned windows in existence in Anaheim (42 windows and doors).

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Significance Appendix

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The 1929 addition on the south and the enclosed back porch also were built using windows with diamond panes. At the time the house was being built, Fred Backs Jr.'s father, Ferdinand Backs, was building his house on Claudina Street. The builder was Edward F. Niehaus, a well-known builder and owner of the Berkeley Planing Mills. He is thought to be responsible for the unusual Arts and Crafts fireplace and the fine quality woodwork with egg and dart trim in this house. Niehaus' connection with the Backs-Werder families was through the Werder family. He was married to Mathilde Werder on January 29, 1879, after coming to Anaheim to court her. His brother, Ernest, married Minnie Werder July 1, 1885. Both were sisters of Fred Backs Jr.'s mother, Louisa Werder Backs. Edward Niehaus made frequent trips to Anaheim until he died in 1911. This house shows a good attention to detail.

The house at 317 N. Philadelphia is unusual in style for Anaheim. While there are many other Craftsman houses, this one shows a sophistication and sense of style that is far from typical of Anaheim. Many of Anaheim's houses were plan book houses or ordered from one of the lumber companies. This house, with its wide gables, oriental-style gable decor, shingled siding, french doors and unusual porch roof has always been well-maintained and the exterior front has seen little change since it was built in 1907.

The house at 307 N. Philadelphia is also unique in style in Anaheim. The English Tudor-style facade is the only one of this type of bungalow in Anaheim.

The house at 303 N. Philadelphia is small but well-defined in regard to its oriental theme. It is the only house with this particular trim, portico and front facade in Anaheim.

The interiors of the houses at 307, 317 and 321 N. Philadelphia show a particular attention to detail. The houses at 307 and 317 contain large Craftsman style fireplaces and wide woodwork in the Craftsman style while the house at 321 is more Colonial Revival in character.

Although Anaheim was a substantial community with a large and significant commercial center, Anaheim never had the large and fancy houses seen in Orange and Santa Ana. The German nature of the city contributed much to the attitudes of modesty and frugality. Ostentatiousness was definitely frowned upon. These houses are perhaps the best examples of their style in the city.

Supplementary Information for Criterion B

Fred Backs Jr. (built 321 and lived in 321 and 317 N. Philadelphia)

Fred Backs Jr. appeared before the Anaheim City Council on July 5, 1917 as

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spokesman for a contingent of citizens who asked that the people be allowed to vote on the proposed new city hall. The issue continued to be a hot one through the construction of the building in 1922. In April 1919 he was elected to the Anaheim City Council and served during a significant growth period and the 1920-1926 development of downtown Anaheim. As part of the City Council, he campaigned for and voted to institute the City Manager type of system (Ordinance 358) which is still in effect in the city. He continued to be active in civic organizations and civic matters. Flood control of the Santa Ana River, which had flooded Anaheim in the past, and the outfall sewage line constructed by Anaheim, Fullerton, Santa Ana and Orange were of special interest to him, as they were to his neighbor at 321 N. Philadelphia, O.E. Steward. Fred Backs Jr. served as treasurer for the Anaheim Elks for 25 years, on the City Library Board for 25 years, as a Director of the Chamber of Commerce and in the Native Sons of the Golden West and the Knights of Columbus. He was Executive Secretary of the Savings, Loan and Building Association of Anaheim for over 40 years, during two Anaheim building booms (1920s and the late 1940s). He died in March of 1950.

Homer Ames (lived at 303 N. Philadelphia)

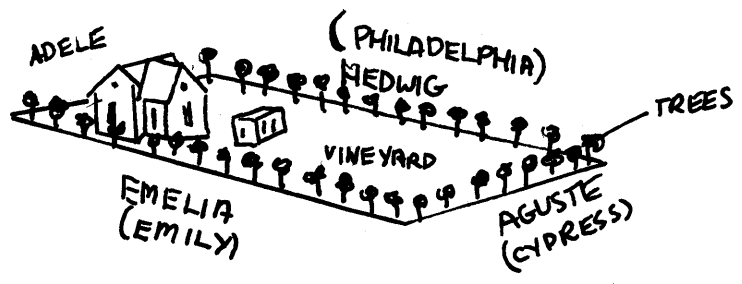
Judge Homer Ames served as Anaheim's City Attorney during the period of significance of this neighborhood and was appointed a judge of the Superior Court in 1925. First serving as Santa Ana Deputy District Attorney, he became Richard Melrose's law partner in 1910 and they continued to have both a formal and informal partnership for many years. As City Attorney of Anaheim from 1912 he was active during a heavy growth period of the city. He was known for his canny observations and innovative solutions. In 1912 he represented Anaheim in the sewer plant fight which resulted in the building of an outfall line to the ocean. In 1912 Anaheim wanted to build a sewer farm west of the Anaheim borders and purchased a ranch for this purpose. The residents of the then unincorporated area objected strenuously and under the leadership of Phillip Stanton, a wealthy landowner and former state legislator, incorporated as the City of Stanton. Homer Ames and the City of Anaheim went to court to contest the incorporation, still hoping to run their sewer line. Ames filed the papers in the action, but the court upheld the incorporation. Soon after, the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, Santa Ana, and Orange formed a sewer district and built a sewer line to the ocean.

Homer Ames spearheaded local Liberty Loan drives, War Savings Stamps campaigns, and Red Cross activities. He was active in Elks and performed the dedication ceremony for their impressive new building in 1921. He was also a Mason and a Shriner, as well as president of the Kiwanis Club from 1931 to 1932. He was also an Oddfellow and a Knight of Pythias. Articles appeared about him in "History of the Bench and Bar of California" (1912), Orange County Historical Society, Vol. II, History of Orange County, California (1911), History of Orange County (1931), and Pacific Coast Elk. He was one of three



MELROSE- BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD

226 and 228 E. Adele  
303, 307, 317, 321 North  
Philadelphia  
Anaheim, CA 92805



HOUSE AS IT APPEARED IN 1876 DRAWING OF  
THE ENTIRE TOWN OF ANAHEIM BY A MR. GLOVER  
(NOW LOCATED IN MOTHER COLONY HISTORY ROOM)  
(Enlarged from bird's eye view map)

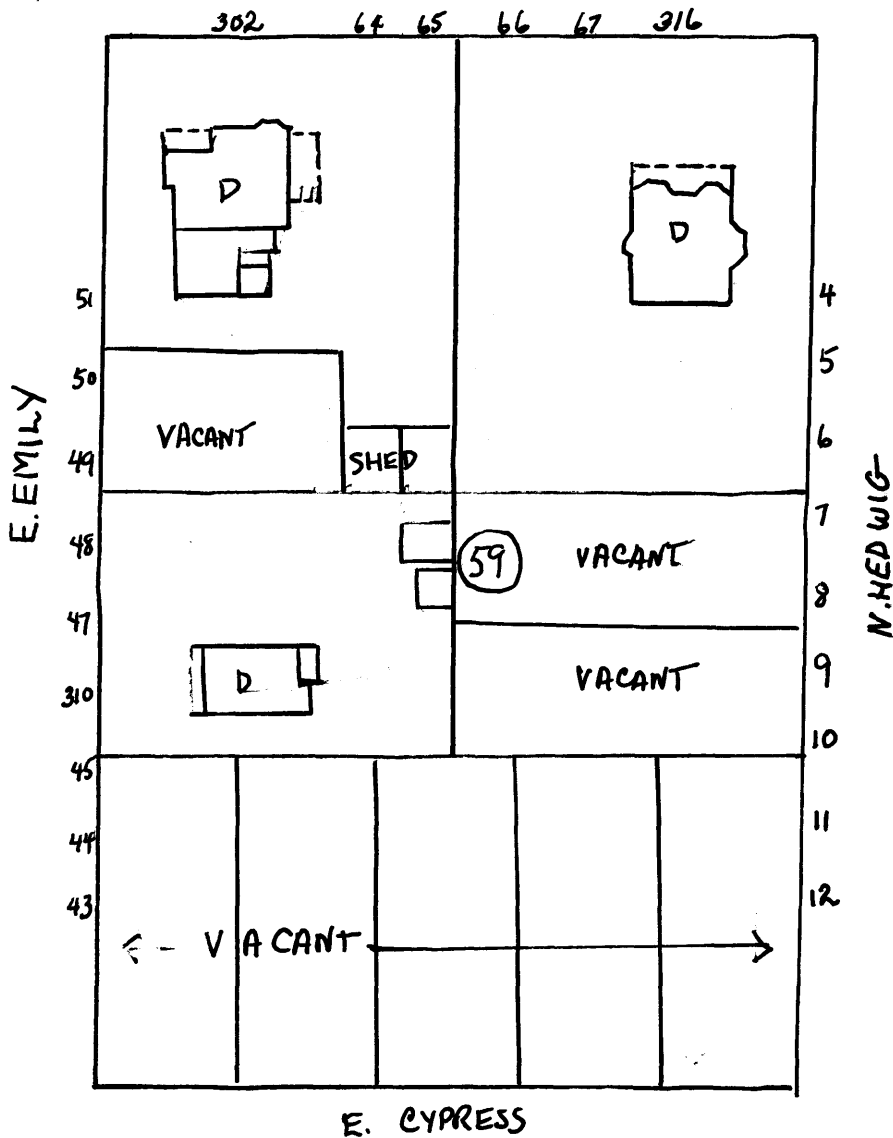
1907

SANBORN MAPS--1907

SANBORN MAP

MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD  
226 and 228 E. Adele  
303,307,317, and 321 North  
Philadelphia  
Anaheim, CA 92805

E. ADELE

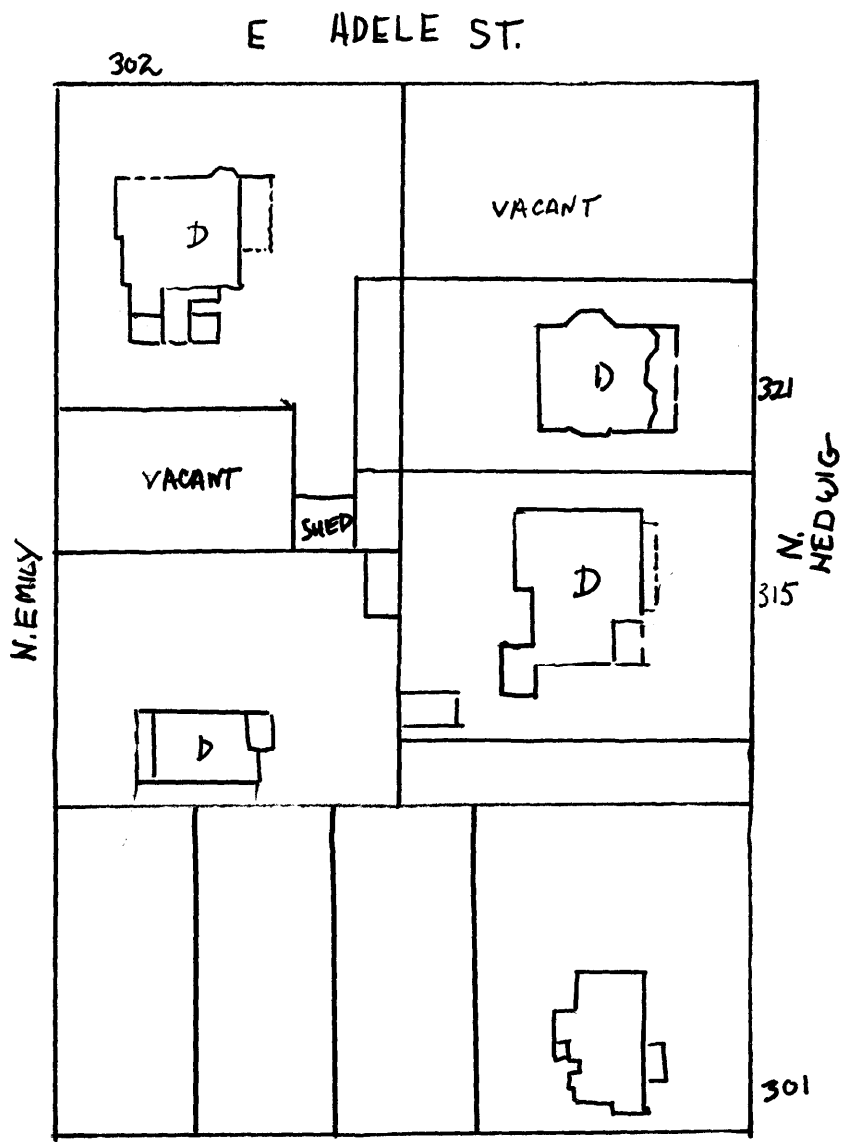


C

SANBORN MAPS--August 1911

MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD  
226 and 228 E. Adele  
303, 307, 317, and 321 North  
Philadelphia (Hedwig)  
Anaheim, CA 92805

AUG 1911  
SANBORN MAPS

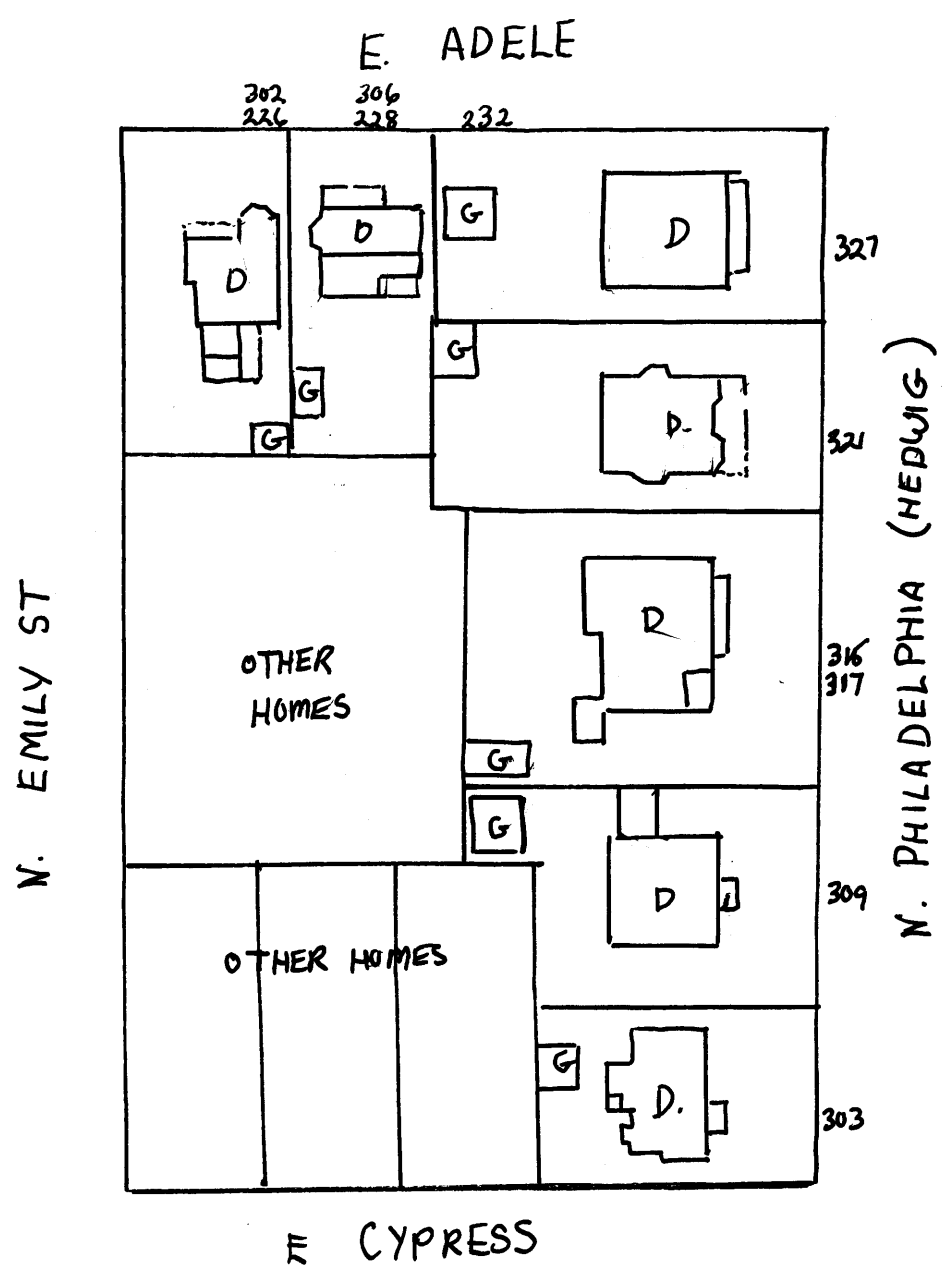


COURTESY: ANAHEIM PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

SANBORN MAPS--1922

1922  
SANBORN MAP

MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD  
226 and 228 E. Adele  
303, 307, 317, and 321 North  
Philadelphia (Hedwig)  
Anaheim, California 92805

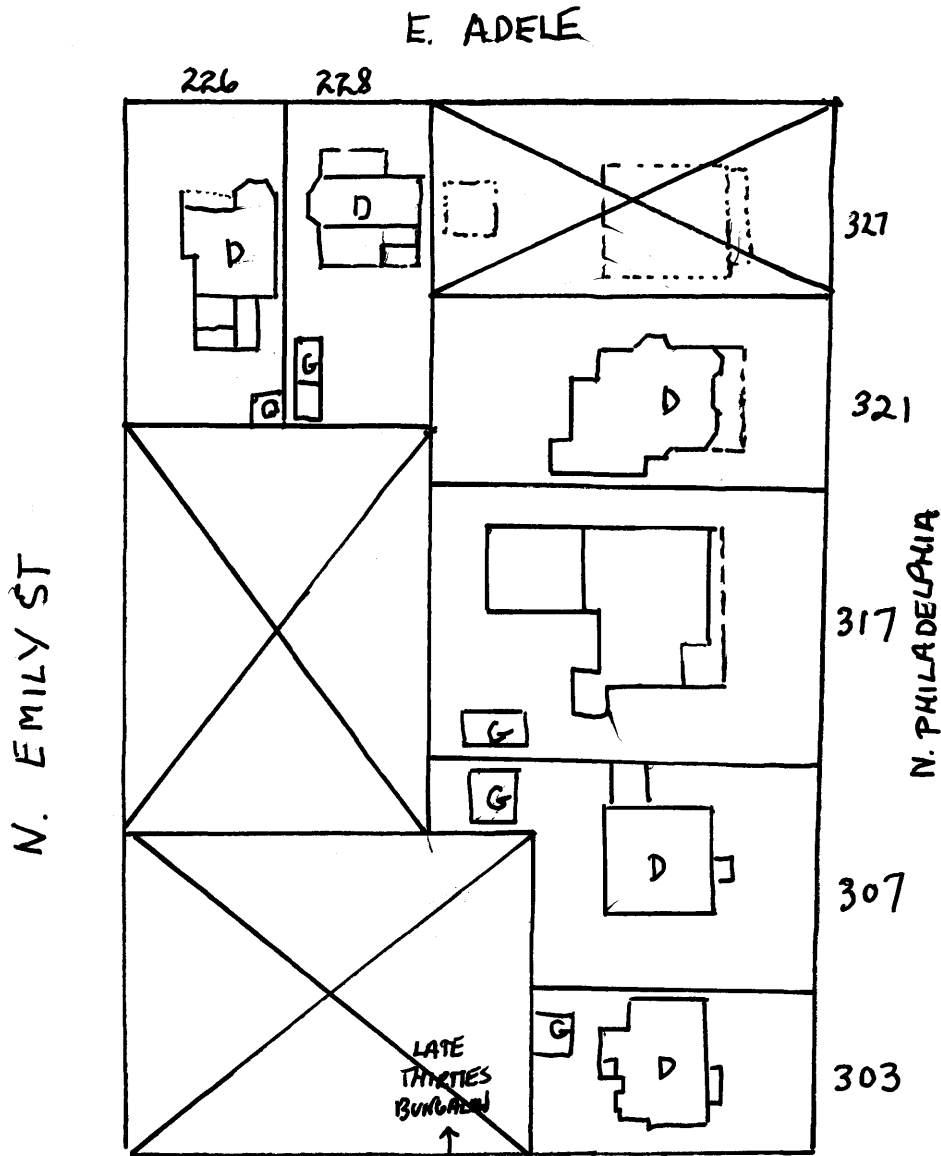


MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD

226 and 228 E. Adele  
303,307,317, and 321 North  
Philadelphia  
Anaheim, CA 92805

CURRENT  
MAP

CURRENT MAP

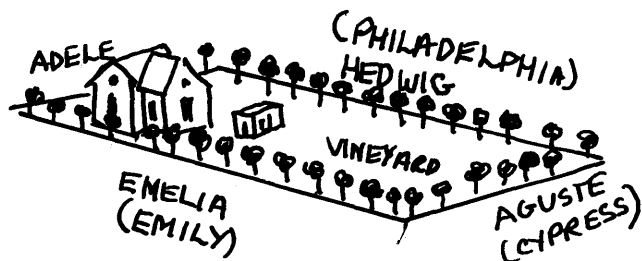


ALL HOUSES ON THIS BLOCK  
ARE PRE-1930 WITH THE EXCEPTION  
OF ONE LATE 30'S BUNGALOW

MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD

House No. 1 at 226 E. Adele Street

This house is on its original location and is half of the house originally built as Conrad Kuechel's home.

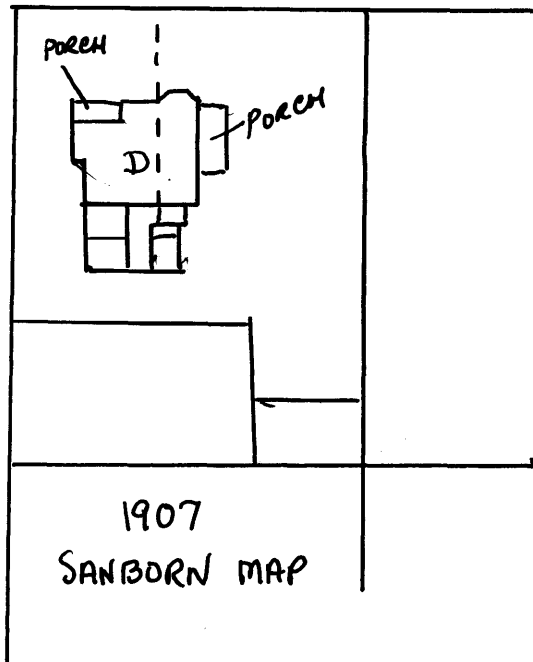


1876

(DRAWING BY MR GLOVER)

(Enlarged from bird's eye view map of Anaheim.)

E. ADELE



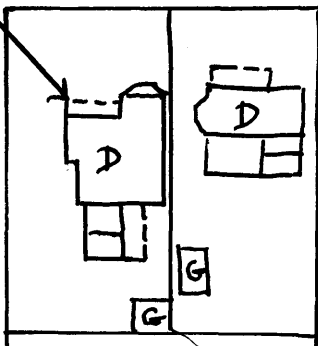
1907  
SANBORN MAP

HOUSE DIVIDED IN 1912

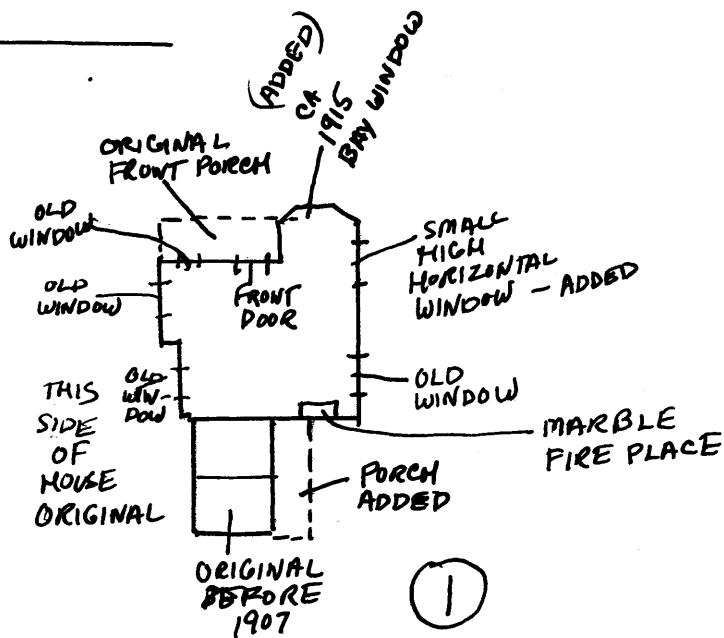
HOUSE NO. 1

E. ADELE

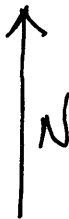
N. EMILY



1922  
SANBORN MAP



SAME SIDING ETC.  
70's-80's  
WINDOWS



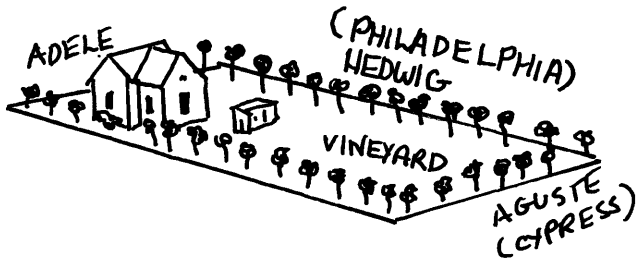
MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD

House No. 2 at 228 E. Adele Street

This house was part of the house next door and was quarter-turned in 1912 to face Adele Street. The original slanted bay window is located on the west side.

NOTE: SOME PORTIONS

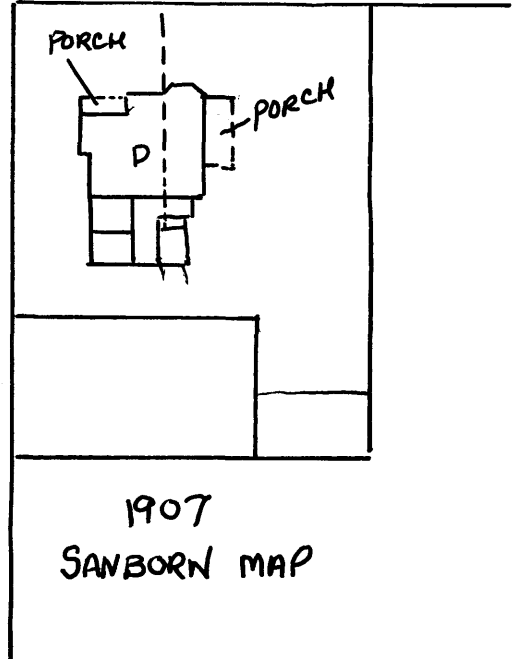
OF THIS HOUSE WERE ADDED AFTER 1876. THEY WERE NOT DOCUMENTED. SIDING AND OLD WINDOWS MATCH, HOWEVER. AND SQUARE NAILHEADS CAN BE FOUND THROUGHOUT.



1876

DRAWING BY MR. GLOVER  
PART OF A SKETCH OF THE ENTIRE TOWN  
OF ANAHEIM. IT WAS LITHOGRAPHED  
AND SOLD TO PEOPLE IN TOWN

E. ADELE

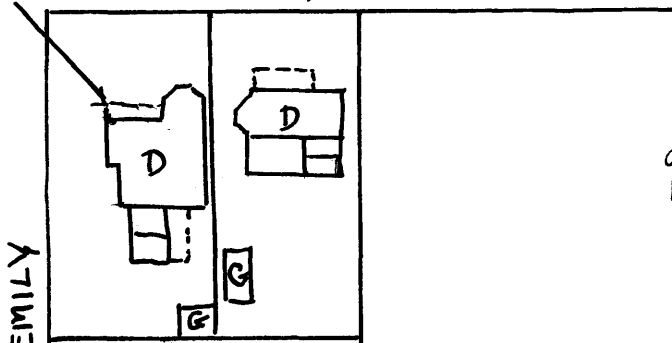


1907  
SANBORN MAP

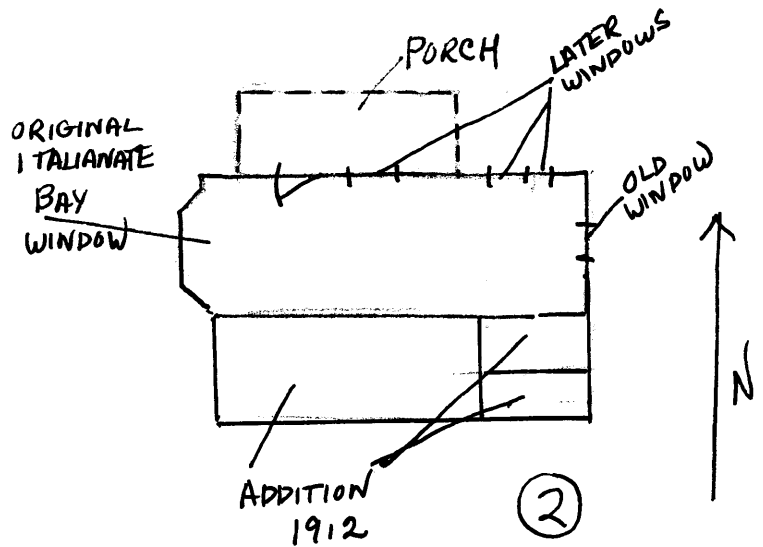
HOUSE DIVIDED IN 1912

HOUSE NO. 1

E. ADELE



1922  
SANBORN MAP



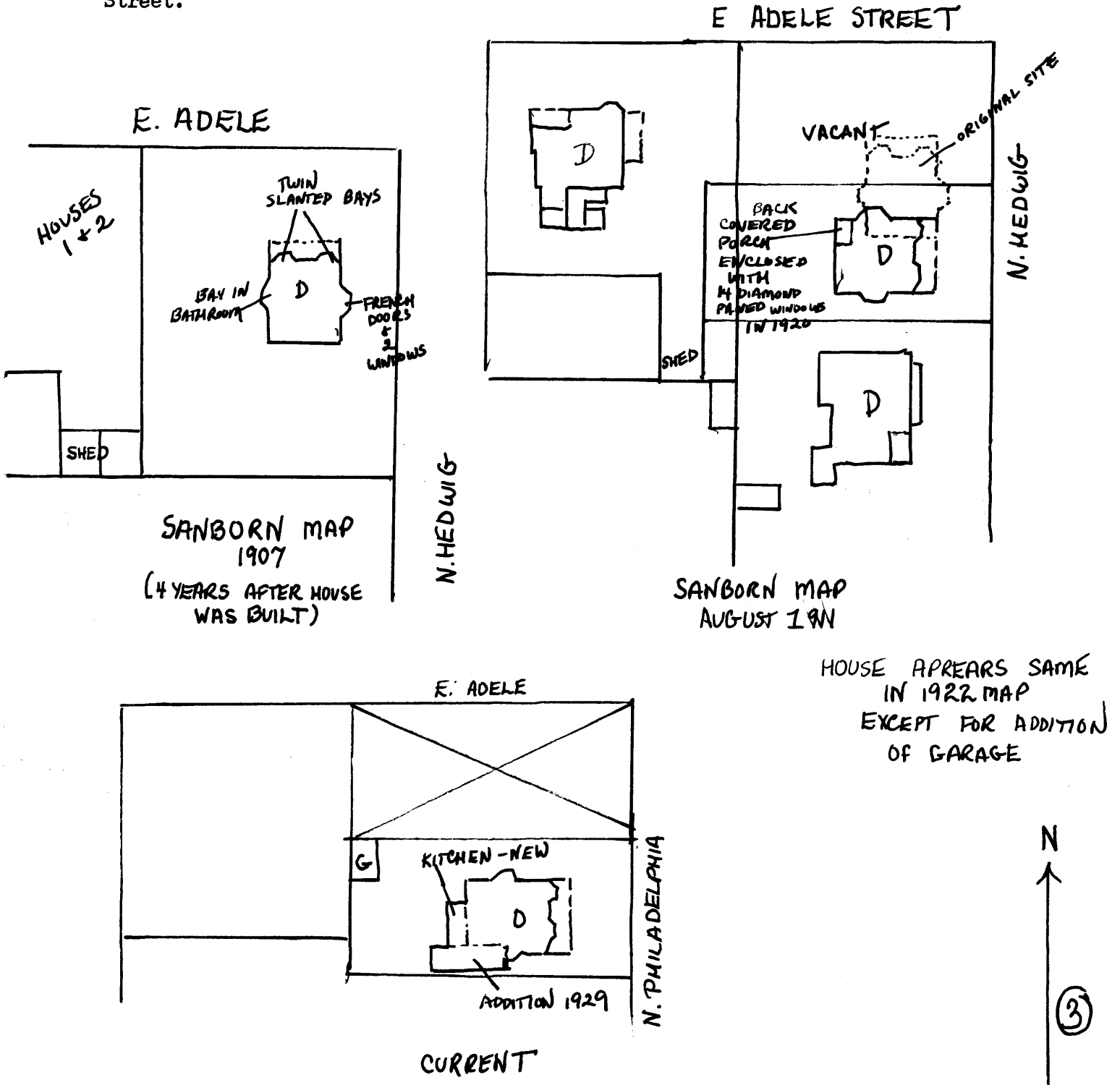
2

MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD

321 N. Philadelphia St.

House No. 3: Fred Backs Jr. Honeymoon Cottage

House built in 1903 facing Adele Street. In 1911 it was turned to face Philadelphia Street.



HOUSE APPEARS SAME IN 1922 MAP EXCEPT FOR ADDITION OF GARAGE



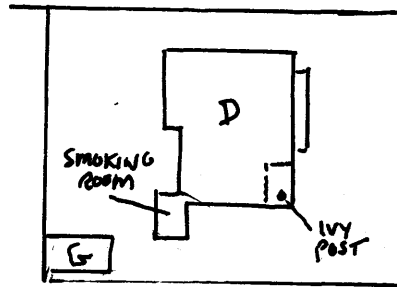
MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD  
House No. 4 Fred Backs Jr. House  
317 N. Philadelphia

4

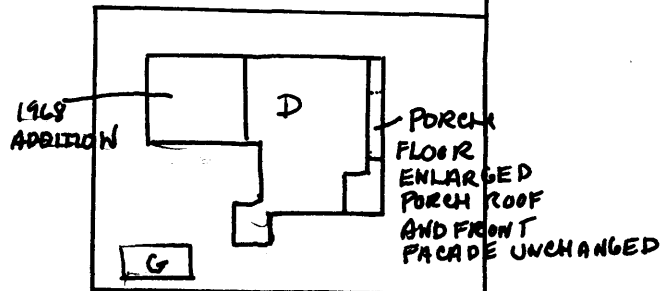
House built in 1907-08 by Melrose as his home while he was in the State Assembly. He lived there until 1914, when Fred Backs moved in.

E. ADELE

HOUSE APPEARS IN  
1911 SANBORN MAP  
EXACTLY THE SAME AS 1922



1922 SANBORN MAP



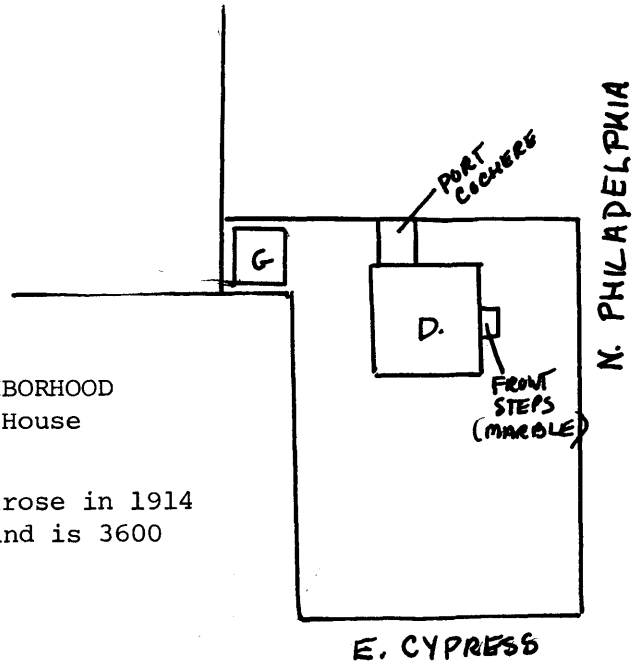
CURRENT

N. PHILADELPHIA (HEDWIG)

5

MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD  
House No. 5 Melrose House  
307 N. Philadelphia

House built by Melrose in 1914  
is Tudor in design and is 3600  
square feet.

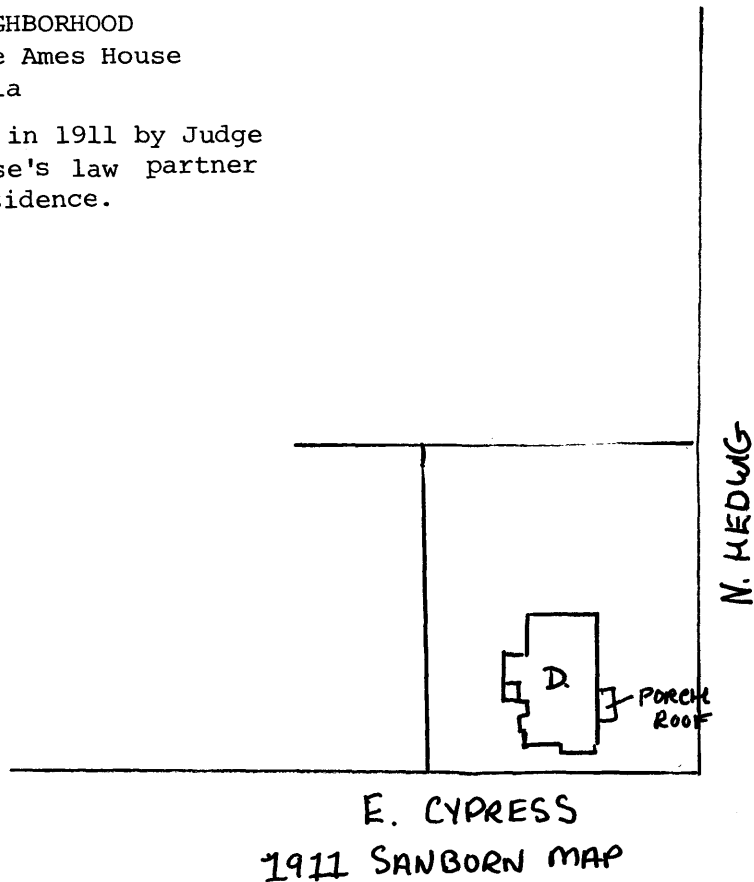


1922 SANBORN MAP

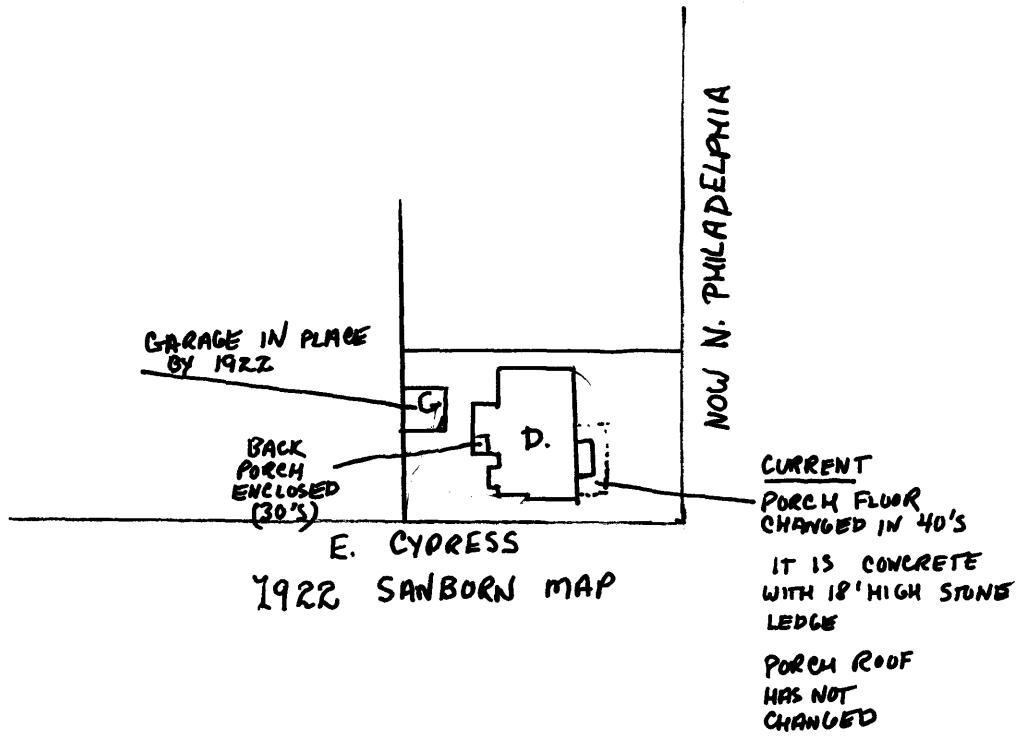
HOUSE IS SAME TODAY  
AS IN 1922

MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD  
House No. 6: Judge Ames House  
303 N. Philadelphia

House was built in 1911 by Judge  
Homer Ames, Melrose's law partner  
as his private residence.



E. CYPRESS  
1911 SANBORN MAP



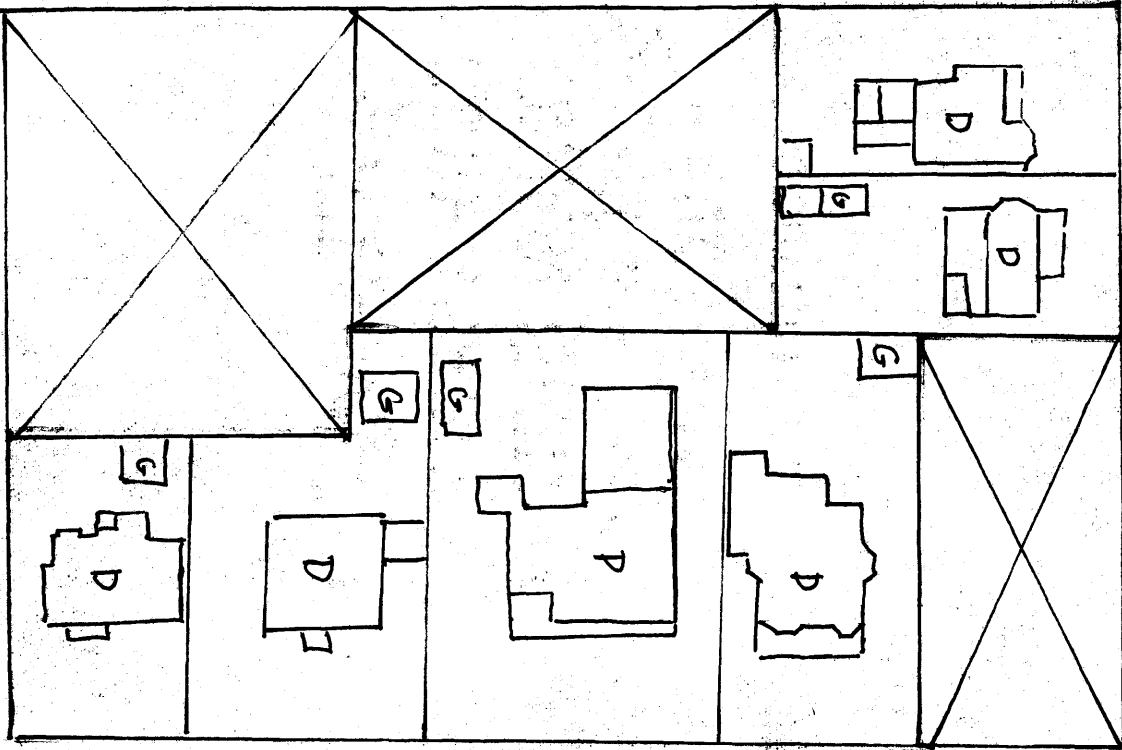
E. CYPRESS  
1922 SANBORN MAP

MELROSE-BACKS NEIGHBORHOOD  
Boundary Map

CURRENT  
MAP

E. ADELE

N. EMILY ST



N. PHILADELPHIA

E. CYPRESS

321

317

307

303

## FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

