

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	FEB 11 1976
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	JUN 3 1976

**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



AND/OR COMMON

**Frederick Mitchell Mooers House**

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

**818 South Bonnie Brae Street**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

**Los Angeles**

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**25**

STATE

**California**

CODE  
**06**

COUNTY

**Los Angeles**

CODE

**037**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

**Ralph R. Demmler**

STREET & NUMBER

**818 South Bonnie Brae Street**

CITY, TOWN

**Los Angeles**

VICINITY OF

STATE

**California**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

**Los Angeles County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER

**320 West Temple Street**

CITY, TOWN

**Los Angeles**

STATE

**Calif. 90012**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

**Los Angeles City Cultural Heritage Board Monument #45**

DATE

**February 8, 1967**

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

**Cultural Heritage Board**

**L.A. City Hall**

CITY, TOWN

**Los Angeles**

STATE

**Calif. 90012**

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

A two-story building with a large attic story and tower, and a porch surrounding the north and west (front) sides. The house, with its strong, rounded, sculptural forms, is basically what the nineteenth century called Queen Anne, but it also has Gothic and Moorish details. The heavy rendering of the porch detail and the wild loop in the front second-story gable suggest that the architect may have been Joseph Cather Newsom, who did other work in Los Angeles, but so far this can only be conjecture. The only basic change in the exterior is that the fine wrought iron work on the roof was removed by a roofer's error. The house is carefully preserved by the owner and will be restored. The paint at present is not in the original colors, but these are being researched by the owner who will restore the facade to its original colors, if it is possible to find them, or to combinations authentic to the period and style of the house.

Very minor alterations have been made to the arrangement of rooms, such as the pantry converted into a bathroom. Until 1971 the original wallpaper was preserved in most rooms but the earthquake in that year ruined the plaster ceilings and walls of the parlor and sitting room. The owner, who is a skilled woodworker, was unable to find a plasterer who would work at the height of these rooms and has tastefully installed wood paneling which may be removed when the house is completely restored.

The dining room with its original embossed leather walls and fine wood carving was damaged only slightly by the earthquake and is exceptional for its richness. The front hall sustained damage, but the original wallpaper has been preserved. The stained glass window above the front door, including the house number, is in excellent condition.

The seven upstairs rooms have not been changed. Even the wallpaper is original, except in the hall where the walls have been painted.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mooers House, built in 1894 for Frank L. Wright, is historically significant because of its third owner, Frederick Mitchell Mooers, the discoverer of the famous Yellow Aster gold mine near Randsberg in Kern County, California. But its chief distinction, besides the richly appointed dining room, is its exterior architecture. Very few Victorian houses in America can match the perfection of wood carving or the imagination applied to detail on this house. On a street still very rich in turn of the century architecture, this house is the most arresting. The Guide to Architecture in Southern California (by David Gebhard & Robert Winter) calls it "undoubtedly the most mannered design of its period in this area." It is also illustrated and commented upon in The Victorian House in America by John Maas (p. 160). Indeed, it is also illustrated in an article by the editors of the Brooklyn Eagle (April 2, 1899) on the success of their old employee, F.M. Mooers. The article illustrates the living room from a point in the tower window.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Los Angeles Times, May 19, 1894.  
 Los Angeles Daily Journal, May 27, 1894.  
 Brooklyn Eagle, April 2, 1899.  
 Gebhard, David, & Winter, Robert. A Guide to Architecture in Southern California. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Art Museum, 1965.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A	11	382	350	376	815	620	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Robert W. Winter

ORGANIZATION

Occidental College

DATE

October 7, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1600 Campus Rd.

TELEPHONE

259-2582

CITY OR TOWN

Los Angeles, CA. 90041

STATE

# 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.

SIGNATURE

*Robert W. Winter*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

JAN 21 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

6/3/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5-21-76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RBR for WJM 6-2-76

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER #9 PAGE

Morgan, Wallace M. History of Kern County... Los Angeles:  
Historic Record Company, 1914.  
Los Angeles, Illustrated, and Descriptive Sketch of Early  
California. Los Angeles: Payne, Baird, & Stanton, 1897.