

State of California - The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

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Ser. No.  
National  
Register Status  
Local  
Designation

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1. Historic name: Alexander Galewski House

2. Common or current name:

3. Number & street: 1725 Santa Barbara Street

City: San Luis Obispo

Vicinity only :

Zip: 93401

County: San Luis Obispo

4. UTM zone:

A

B

C

D

5. . Quad map No. USGS 35120-C6-Tf-024 Assessor's Parcel No.: 003-552-008 Other:

DESCRIPTION

6. Property category: Structure [If district, number of documented resources)

\*7. Physical Appearance: Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the property, including condition, boundaries, related features, surroundings, and (if appropriate) architectural style.

This two-story house is a fine example of "Railroad Vernacular" architectural style. It is a rectangular one- and two-story building, multi-gabled, with the main gables facing the side property lines. The roof has a medium slope with composition shingle roofing and simple fascia. A small corner porch has a mini-gable roof supported by square posts with minimal detail. The paneled entry door has a single pane window. On the front (street) elevation is an angled bay window with one over one side windows and a three over one window on the front. Above the bay is a hipped roof. There is a deep, flat frieze at the porch. To the side of the house is an exterior simple chimney. The house is clad in 3-inch tear drop clapboard siding.

The interior of this modest residence has always been a single family dwelling. The downstairs has three rooms and a kitchen, with a bathroom added much later. A brick chimney used as a stovepipe was hung on an interior wall. It was subsequently removed. There are plain decorative elements, with flat trim around windows and more detailed trim around doorways. The upstairs is divided into two rooms, reached by an open staircase. The upstairs landing has a redwood banister with an usually low, square newel post with some detail. This house is in fair-to-good condition.

8. Planning agency:

City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department

9. . Owner & address:

Astrid J. Gallagher, Tre Etal

1680 La Finca Court

Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

10. Type of ownership: Private

11. Present use: Residential (rental)

12. Zoning: R-3-H (Medium-High Density Residential, Railroad Historic District)

13. Threats: None

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

\* 14. Construction date(s): 1904 (factual)      Original location: same      Date moved: n/a

15. Alterations & date: porch addition, date of addition unknown

16. Architect: Unknown      Builder: Unknown

17. Historic attributes

(with number from list): 2

02--Single Family Property

03--Multiple Family Property

04--Hotel

06--Commercial Building 1-3 stories

14--Government Building

SIGNIFICANCE AND EVALUATION

18. Context for evaluation: Theme: Residential Architecture      Area: San Luis Obispo

Period: 1900-1940

Property type: Single Family Residence

19. Briefly discuss the property's importance within the context. Use historical and architectural analysis as appropriate. Compare with similar properties.

This house was built by Alexander Galewski, saloonkeeper and longtime resident of San Luis Obispo, in 1904. It is a fine example of the railroad style of cottages built near the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks in the Railroad Historic District of San Luis Obispo. It is unusual for that location in that it, unlike many other nearby residences, was never converted to a rooming house. For the house's first 50 years it was mostly occupied by its owners. Mr. Galewski owned the Whisper Saloon located on Higuera Street, between Garden and Chorro Streets. He purchased the property from D.C. and Mary A. Cornwall on August 29th, 1904.

The property was in fair condition when purchased by the Gallaghers in 1985. The house has undergone extensive restoration, with a new foundation, sewer, water and gas lateral lines. Also, interior walls were insulated and windows and doors restored to their original appearance. The house's significance is based on its historical association with a prominent San Luis Obispo merchant/saloonkeeper, and its Railroad Vernacular architectural style which has remained essentially intact since its construction. (by Astrid Gallagher, January 1994)

20. Sources:

County Museum Files

County Recorder & Title Company documents