

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

HABS _____ HAER _____ Ser. No. _____
UTM: A 10/712780, 3905970 NR 1 SHL _____ Loc _____
C _____ B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Pinard House
2. Historic name: Myron Angel Home
3. Street or rural address: 714 Buchon Street
City San Luis Obispo Zip 93401 County San Luis Obispo
4. Parcel number: 03-533-08
5. Present Owner: Pinard, L.W. II, et al. Address: 714 Buchon Street
City San Luis Obispo Zip 93401 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: 3 story wood frame house (19th C. American Farmhouse)w/Victorian overtones
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This is a large three story frame structure resting on a street level foundation with a basement in the rear. The plan is a T-shape with three additions: front, rear, and to the left side. Composition shingle roof has four hipped gables (Jenkin-head gables) each at one angle to one another. The siding is wide shiplap typical of houses built in this style. The additions have decorative panels and Gothic crosses. The barge board ends are circular. The windows are long and narrow and placed evenly on the sides either centered in the middle or at the end.



8. Construction date:
Estimated 1886 Factual _____
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 85' Depth 115'
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
December 1982

13. Condition: Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ No longer in existence ☐
14. Alterations: Additions to front, rear, left side
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ☐ Scattered buildings ☐ Densely built-up ☐
Residential ☒ Industrial ☐ Commercial ☐ Other: ☐
16. Threats to site: None known ☒ Private development ☐ Zoning ☐ Vandalism ☐
Public Works project ☐ Other: ☐
17. Is the structure: On its original site? Yes Moved? ☐ Unknown? ☐
18. Related features: ☐

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

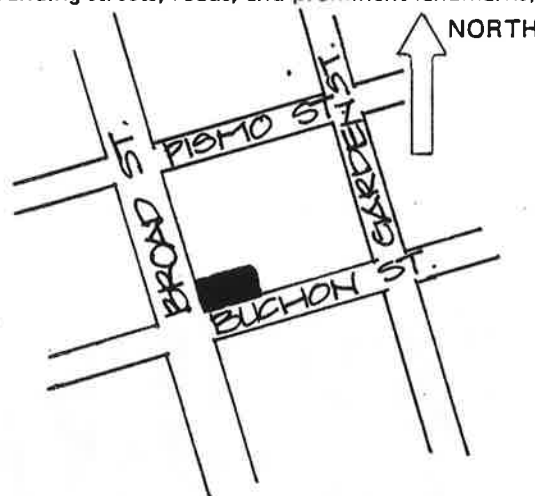
This towering Victorian style farmhouse was constructed between 1886 and 1891. Although it defies exact architectural classification, it is reminiscent of vernacular residences built in the rural Midwest and antebellum South. This house, with its peculiar Jenkin-head gables that exaggerate its farm house character, was probably built by Elizabeth Isom who owned the property at that time. In 1896, Myron Angel, a journalist, editor, and county historian bought the home with his second wife. Angel is especially renowned for being the "founding father" of California Polytechnic State University. Born in Oneonta, New York in 1827, he migrated west to California in the 1840's. Angel was also the owner and editor of the Tribune, a local newspaper.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
Architecture 2 Arts & Leisure ☐
Economic/Industrial ☐ Exploration/Settlement ☐
Government ☐ Military ☐
Religion ☐ Social/Education 1
21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

Deed Title Records
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
(1886, 1891)

22. Date form prepared JUN 17 1993
By (name) Historic Res. Survey Staff
Organization City of San Luis Obispo
Address: P.O. Box 321
City San Luis Obispo Zip 93401
Phone: (805) 541-1000

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



History and Description:

The Myron Angel home was built between 1870 and 1880; the exact date cannot be specified, only approximated, due to lack of documental proof of its construction date. Myron Angel's home of Victorian style architecture defines its character of charming elegance with its fine architectural, as well as, structural details constructed of redwood connected by handsome squarehead nails. In direct contrast, most homes of today have some form of concrete foundation in securing a home to the earth, but Myron Angel's home, as well as others within the vicinity of his home, were secured by 4 x 5 redwood posts upon redwood mudsills spaced approximately 5 feet on center of one another trussed together forming an unseemingly secure foundation.

By request of the present owner of the Myron Angel home, a local contractor estimated the home to last at least another 80-90 years with minor structural improvements.

Myron Angel was a native of Oneonta, New York, born on December 11, 1827 from a Puritan Pilgram descent. At fifteen, Myron was an orphan but was educated at Hartwich Seminary. In 1846, Myron resigned from West Point Military Academy to enter the California Gold Rush. As the heir to a will left by his family, Myron Angel's expenses for his education and travels were paid by his inherited fortune. On his way west, Myron stopped at Peoria, Illinois, to be accompanied by his brother, a lawyer, for the remainder of the journey west. As the two brothers traveled westward from Peoria, they stopped briefly at Pike's Peak, and the Feather River. In California, the two brothers had a ranch on the Sacramento River near Chico; in North San Juan, Myron lost \$40,000 on a mining claim. In 1860, his brother was killed at Washoe in an Indian massacre. In 1860, Myron Angel was editor of the Placerville Semi-Weekly Observer. During the Civil War, Myron Angel offered his services and resources as a captain of a personal self-paid army till his funds were depleted, about a month and a half.

As an editor and writer, Myron Angel wrote many gazettes, books, and worked for Thompson and West Publishing Company. While teamed up with two other men Myron Angel lost \$100,000 in a hydraulic mining operation in El Dorado County. On September 22, 1879, Myron Angel married Charlott Paddock Livingston, an accomplished lady, whose acquaintance extended from the days of their youth. At 52, Angel was asked by the state to write the history of mining in California but was stopped before finishing, because funds were depleted.

Myron Angel wrote a thousand quarto page history of Nevada; in 1882, he wrote the History of Placer County, 400 quarto pages, rated excellent political history; and in 1883, he wrote the history of San Luis Obispo County, and at the same time became editor of the San Luis Obispo Weekly Tribune, a Republican newspaper, assessed at 5 million dollars. In 1886, his wife, Charlotte, died, and a monument was erected to her memory but since has disappeared. Late in 1886, Myron Angel disposed of the Tribune and bought the Daily Republic. On November 13, 1889, Myron Angel married Carrie G. Flagler from Fallsburg, New York. As a founding father of Cal Poly, he had long envisioned a college of this type for the community. His dreams became reality in 1901 when Cal Poly was accepted as a vocational high school under supervision of R. L. Shackelford of Paso Robles. Plagued by poor health in his last five years of life, Myron Angel died June 27, 1911.

Sources:

History of San Luis Obispo, Myron Angel
Title Insurance Company of San Luis Obispo
Louisiana Dart, Curator, San Luis Obispo County
Historical Museum
William Wharton Jr.; present owner
Historical copies of the Telegram Tribune Newspapers;
San Luis Obispo City Library



David Middlecamp/Telegram-Tribune

The Angel house, built in 1887, will be open to tour Sunday afternoon. Its latest owners have spent 14 years refurbishing it.

TT 10-21-86

Old home fans can pay visit to Angel house

Old house buffs in San Luis Obispo are invited to an open house and mini-tour of the Myron Angel House from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The Old Town Neighborhood Association is planning the event as part of its annual general meeting.

The tall red Angel house at the corner of Buchon and Broad streets was built in 1887.

It has a new plaque from the National Register of Historic Places to commemorate its centennial year next year.

Owners Peg and Leo Pinard have owned the house since 1974. They will share the results of 14 years of hard work with neighbors and friends who attend the open house.

The couple said they have tried to put the house "back into its original condition," and in the process re-

moved tons of paint and did a complete re-plastering. They lived in the home while it was up on jacks awaiting a new foundation.

Angel, a major historian of San Luis Obispo County, founder of Cal Poly, and early day editor of the weekly Tribune, did not build the house, but he lived in it from 1896 to 1911 and that qualifies it for the National Register honor.

Also planned for the open house is a slide show of other home improvements in the neighborhood.

Refreshments will be served. Assisting will be OTNA members, Pat Beniger, vice president; Dave Hannings, secretary; Elizabeth Peterson, treasurer; LaVerne Schneider, parliamentarian; and Mike Beniger, historian. Leo Pinard is OTNA pres-

ident.

The OTNA was founded in 1978 with political purposes in mind, said spokeswoman Martha Steward.

The threatened encroachment of commercial rezonings in areas nearest downtown was the catalyst for organizing OTNA. The group has grown from the original five to more than 100 families and single residents.

The OTNA has voiced its concerns on major issues at City Hall, with numerous accomplishments to its credit. These included: adoption of the Alternate Building Code for historic structures; a Demolition Ordinance; a city-established Cultural Resources Committee to sur-

vey all architecturally and historically important buildings in the city; and stop signs on Buchon Street.

Heritage House Tours have raised money to finance a tree planting program along Broad Street.

Overall goals of OTNA are to maintain and improve the residential quality of the neighborhood, making it more attractive and liveable, with less traffic and congestion where possible, Steward said.

Voluntary membership dues may be paid at the open house meeting. Contributions are \$10 for families, \$2 for senior citizens. For details, call Peg or Leo Pinard, 544-4566, or Steward, 546-2165.