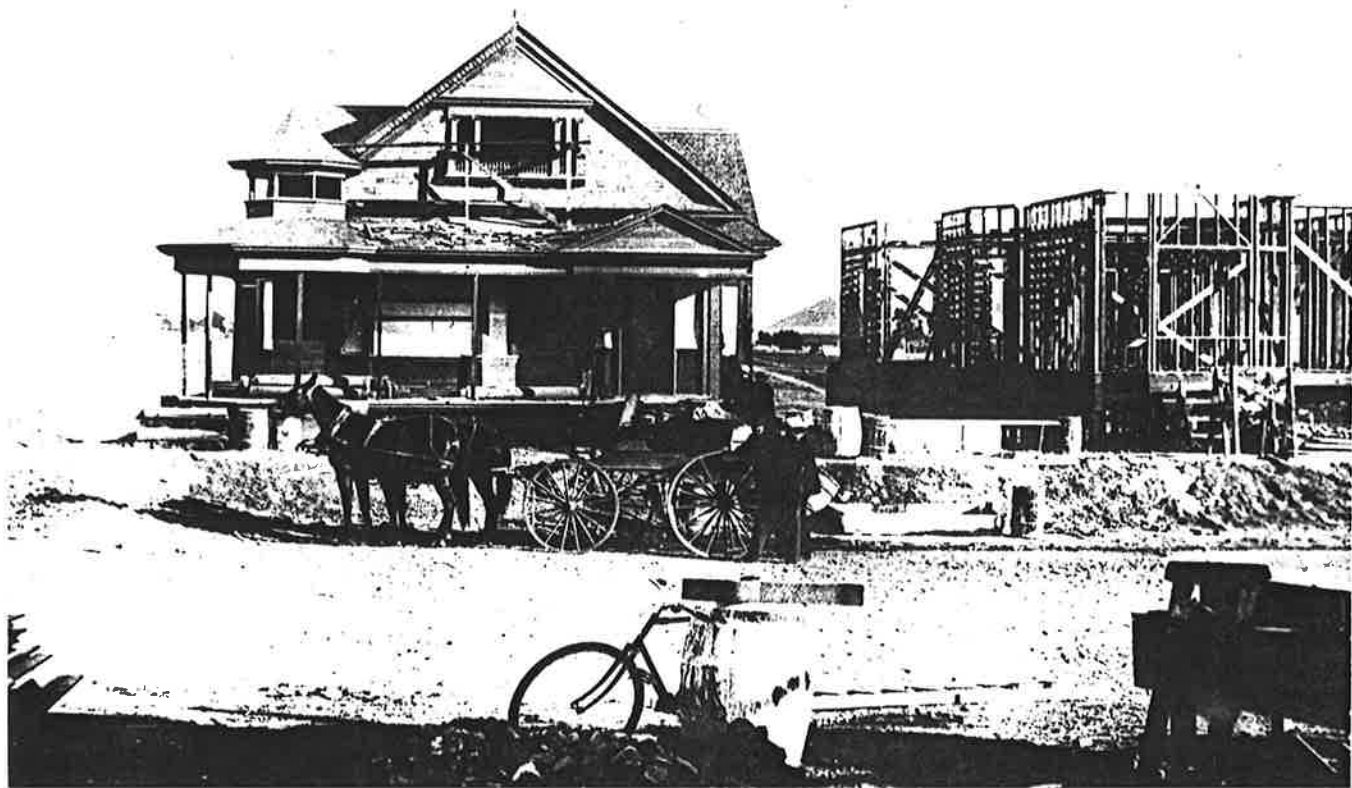


Source: San Luis Obispo Fire Dept., Souvenir of San Luis Obispo (1904)



RESIDENCE OF J. CROCKER,
793 Buchon Street.

793 Buchon St (Jacob Crocker House) under construction, ca. 1901



No. 0022-03R
HABS _____ HAER _____ SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 10/712920/3906040 B _____
C _____ D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Gerety Residence
2. Historic name: Crocker Home
3. Street or rural address: 793 Buchon Street
City San Luis Obispo Zip 93401 County San Luis Obispo County
4. Parcel number: 03-536-05
5. Present Owner: Patrick Gerety Address: 793 Buchon
City San Luis Obispo Zip 93401 Ownership is: Public _____ Private x
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Queen Anne with Colonial Revival influence
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This richly ornamented two-story corner lot house has an unusual tower, front gable and verandah. A wide verandah across the entire front and corner with spindle railing. Generously proportioned columns support the porch roof in pairs in the front, singly around the corner-- 10 total. The porch pediment is decorated with an ornate pattern in relief that is repeated on the front-facing gable. A witch's cap and finial top octagonal tower projects abruptly from the porch roof and is banded by multi-panel windows--20 panels in each of eight sides. A spool and spindle porch railing is repeated across the front of the gable windows. There are semi-circular topped windows on each side of the center panel. Slanted bays across the front and sides of the house. Side-lights with leaded glass lattice flank the front door and is repeated in transoms.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1901-02
9. Architect Wm. H. Weeks
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 60' Depth 205'
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
Dec. 1982

13. Condition: Excellent _____ Good ☒ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____

14. Alterations: _____

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 home is an outstanding example of turn of the century classic revival residential architecture, hybridized with late Queen Anne ornate modifications as they appeared in San Luis Obispo. It was built in 1901-02 for Jacob Crocker, a prosperous and influential businessman and merchant. In 1881, Crocker co-founded J. Crocker & Co., a forerunner of what was later to become Riley's Department Store. Crocker entered partnership with Riley in 1887. Of special note is the fact that this is one of the few residences in the City designed by a professionally trained architect from that era. William Weeks, the California architect from Watsonville, California, designed the Crocker Home and was also known for designing many public schools and libraries throughout California. In 1903 Weeks designed the Carnegie Public Library in San Luis Obispo, now the San Luis Obispo County Historical Museum.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure _____
Economic/Industrial _____ Exploration/Settlement _____
Government _____ Military _____
Religion _____ Social/Education 2

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

"Heritage Walking Tour" Brochure
(Old Towne Neighborhood Ass.)
Interview w/ Riley's Dept. Store Manager
(6/1/83)

22. Date form prepared 6/3/97
By (name) J. Hook
Organization City of San Luis Obispo
Address: 990 Palm St.
City SLO Zip 93401-3249
Phone: _____

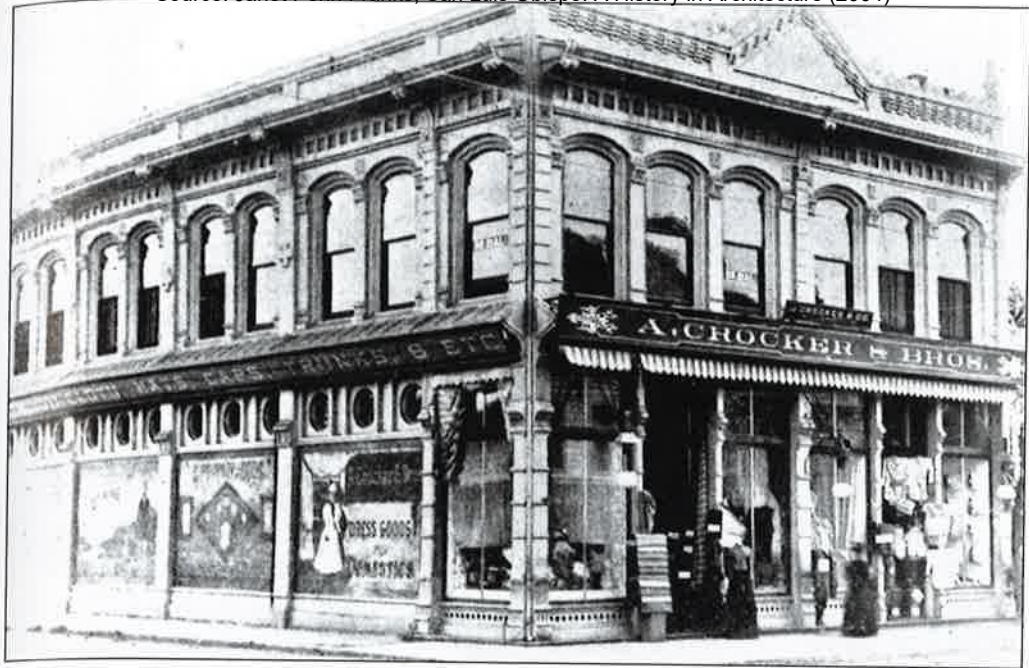
Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



Source: San Luis Obispo Fire Dept., Souvenir of San Luis Obispo (1904)



CROCKER BUILDING—CROCKER'S BIG DEPARTMENT STORE,
Corner Higuera and Garden Streets.



A. CROCKER & BROTHERS DEPARTMENT STORE. In 1887, brothers Aaron, Jacob, and Adolph Crocker established A. Crocker & Brothers on the southwest corner of Higuera and Garden Streets. Later referred to as “the merchandising pioneers of California,” the Crocker brothers sold “piece goods”—cloth, thread, lace, and ribbon—as well as ready-to-wear clothing, trunks, suitcases, and household items. In 1920, the department store was sold to J.D. Riley, who changed the name to Riley-Crocker. The business, later renamed Riley’s, moved up the street to the southeast corner of Higuera and Chorro Streets in 1955.