

Beyond the BUNGALOW

Grand Homes in the Arts & Crafts Tradition

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Oxnard Home featured in “Beyond the Bungalow” by Paul Duchscherer & Linda Svendsen

Figure 186.

HOUSE IN OXNARD, CALIFORNIA
(1915).

Although it is quite large, and has some half-timbering details in its gables, this shingled house evokes more of an English Cottage than Tudor Revival feeling. Blended elements of the Craftsman style are seen on the windows and the brackets supporting the gable eaves. Such expansive front porches are generally uncommon on Tudor Revival or English Cottage style homes. Thick, square, ivy-clad columns supporting the porch roof reinforce the Craftsman impression. The use of a single-story gable at the porch entry helps reduce the scale of the house. A more subtle variation of the usual “mash-shank” effect, the original surviving wood-shingled roof is more gently rounded at the eaves than most examples that attempt this reference. Above the porch entry, the arch across the bottom of the small gable quietly complements the soft curves of the roofline’s eaves.



Figure 187.

ENTRY HALL (TOWARD DINING ROOM) OF THE OXNARD HOUSE.

Once inside the house, the Craftsman style takes over. Textured grasscloth wallcovering (also used on the ceiling) complements the warm wood tones. Circulation spaces here are extra-roomy, and openness between public rooms enhances the spacious feeling. Entered from the front door to the right, the entry hall is open in three directions to adjoining spaces. The rear stair hall is opposite the front door, and a slender round newel post is an unexpected detail. Squared spindles on the stair railing are the only painted wood elements in the vicinity. Framed original blueprints for the house are arranged up the side of the stairs. Admitting more light from the stair hall, the horizontal opening in the wall at left is an original feature, and its proportions recall the Prairie style. The dining room doorway at right is fitted with pocket doors. A built-in sideboard extends beneath a pair of casement windows. Set on the high plate rail that encircles the dining room is an unusual series of vintage painted wooden cutout silhouettes, depicting various cowboy scenes, that make an effective variation on the popular period motif of a “landscape frieze.”

