4538 Alta Lane

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

C _____ D _____
A 11/497495/3684800

6/7
H4538:1
Sperry:1

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Sperry House
2. Historic name: William Sperry House
3. Street or rural address: 4538 Alta Lane
   City La Mesa Zip 92041 County San Diego
4. Parcel number: 470-601-11
5. Present Owner: George E. & Claudia F. Sperry Address: 8126 Fairview Ave
   City La Mesa Zip 92041 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: residential Original use: residential

Lookout Park, Dor. lots 3 & 4
Block D

DESCRIPTION

7a. Architectural style: Bungalow

7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This one story bungalow features a low, cross gable roof and horizontal wooden overlapping siding. Craftsman influence is apparent in the exposed rafter ends and knee braces under the eaves. A room at the front of the house is a later addition; it has six double hung windows in a row. The house has wooden casement windows with two small panes at the top in the older part , and end boards at the corners of the dwelling. The lot rises from the street behind a rock faced concrete block retaining wall. At the corner of the lot, near the Alta Lane and Lemon Avenue intersection, the wall curves to form steps that lead nowhere. The wall and steps were built by the land subdivider before any houses were built on this street. A house was never built in the right location to make use of the steps.

Attach Photo(s) Here

8. Construction date:
   Estimated 1922 Factual _____
9. Architect unknown
10. Builder unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
    Frontage 75 Depth 75
    or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
    1982

13. CONDITION: Good

14. Alterations: room at front is newer addition

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ___ Scattered buildings ___ Densely built-up ___
Residential _X_ Industrial ___ Commercial ___ Other: ___

16. Threats to site: None known X Private development ___ Zoning ___ Vandalism ___
Public Works project ___ Other: ___

17. Is the structure: On its original site? _X_ Moved? ___ Unknown? ___

18. Related features: ROCK faced block wall; trees

SIGNIFICANCE

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

Three generations of the Sperry family have owned this house which was built around 1922 by William Elmer Sperry and his wife, Anna. William Sperry held a U.S. Patent for the invention of a bicycle transmission. A son, Jay V. Sperry, acquired the house in 1935. Jay Sperry and his wife, Carrie, resided there in the 1950s. At the present time, George Sperry, a son of Jay V. Sperry, owns the house and uses it as a rental property.

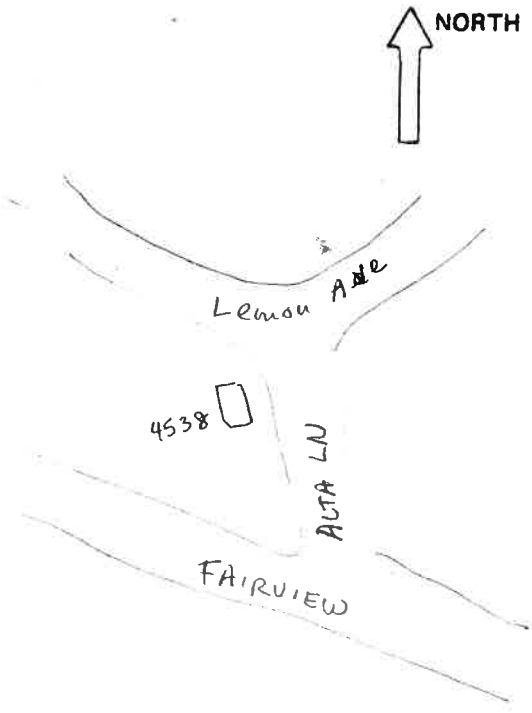
This small house is an example of a 1920s bungalow with Craftsman influence. Bungalows were popular in La Mesa in the 1920s, for these small homes gave families of modest means an opportunity to pursue the American dream - ownership of a home of their own.

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

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
Interview; Mrs. George Sperry
City and county directories
Sanborn Fire Ins Map: 1929
S.D. Recorder: deeds

22. Date form prepared 3/23/82
By (name) kw
Organization ___
Address: ___
City ___ Zip ___
Phone: ___

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



6 + C Speary, 0.75 [illegible]

1/15/1908 CC Grubb + TC Grubb to Wm A Metzgar + Jennie Stapler 4
+ wfs

1/15/1911 Wm Metzgar + Fred to Charles M. [illegible]

3/16/1911 DF Park to AH Roake 3 Bella Roake → Anna Gilbert

4/21/1911 Metzgar to Sally Ann Stapler 4

12/16/1914 Stapler to Martha Meacham 4

3/30/1912 AH Roake to Bella W. Roake 3

3/15 + 6/5/1922 Jennie Stapler est 4
Martha Meacham Incomp 4

6/7/1922 Anna M Gilbert to Anna L Speary 3 Mort 476/266

* 6/20/1922 S Speary Anna + Wm E to Western Loan + Bldg Co 3 D 890/431

3/9/23 Stapler decd to E.A.D. Reynolds 4

4/7/24 E.A.D. + Carrie Reynolds to H.A. + Florence Hall 4

5/4/32 Western Loan + Bldg to James + Rosabel Mahood 3

11/2/1935 James Mahood to Anna L. Speary 3

6/27/1939 Agnes Unger to Anna M. Gilbert 3

10/27/64 H.A. + Florence Hall to Jay Speary 4

State of California — The Resource Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

3

Ser. No. _____

HABS ___ HAER ___ NR ___ SHL ___ Loc ___

UTM: A 3624800 B 497995

C _____ D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

H4538:1

IDENTIFICATION:

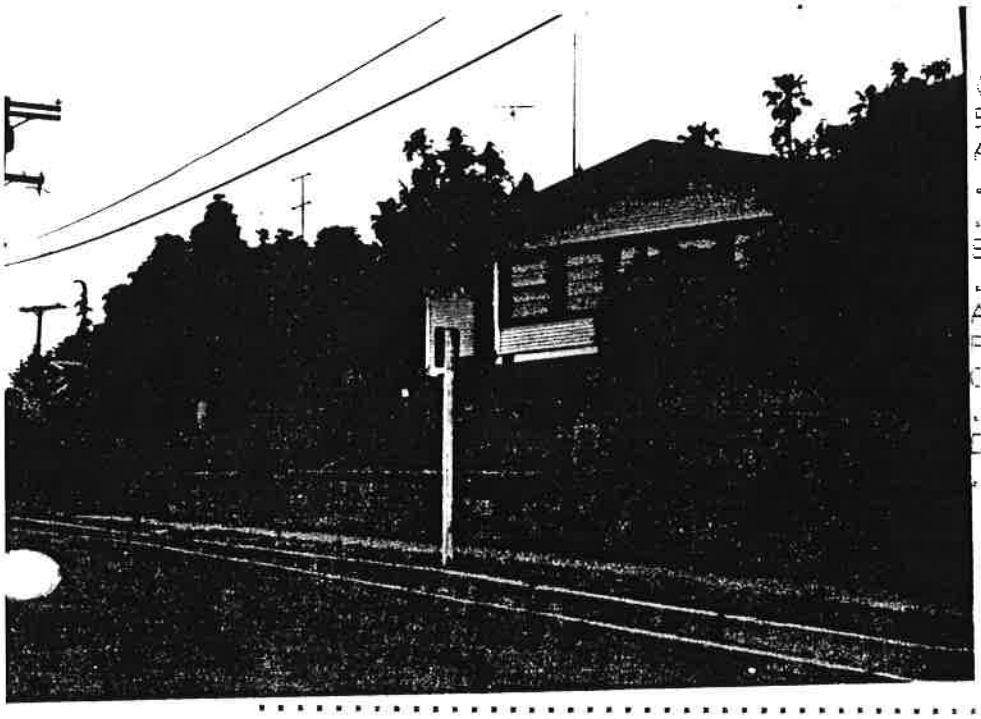
1. COMMON NAME:.....Sperry House.....
2. HISTORIC NAME:.....William Sperry House.....
3. ADDRESS:...4538 Alta Lane.....CITY:..La Mesa.....
   ZIP:.92041.COUNTY:.San Diego 4.PARCEL #:.470-601-11..
5. PRESENT OWNER:.George E. & Claudia E. Sperry.....
   ADDRESS:...8126 Fairview Ave...CITY:..La Mesa.....
   ZIP:.92041.OWNERSHIP IS: PUBLIC:....PRIVATE:..X.....
6. PRESENT USE:.....Residential.....
   ORIGINAL USE:.....Residential.....

DESCRIPTION:

7A:ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:...Bungalow.....
.....

7B:BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE AND DESCRIBE ANY MAJOR ALTERATIONS FROM ITS ORIGINAL CONDITION.

Legal Description: Lookout Park, por. lots 3 & 4, block D. This one story bungalow features a low, cross gable roof and horizontal wooden overlapping siding. Craftsman influence is apparent in the exposed rafter ends and knee braces under the eaves. A room at the front of the house is a later addition; it has six double hung windows in a row. The house has wooden casement windows with two small panes at the top in the older part, and end boards at the corners of the dwelling. The lot rises from the street behind a rock faced concrete block retaining wall. At the corner of the lot, near the Alta Lane and Lemon Avenue intersection, the wall curves to form steps that lead nowhere. The wall and steps were built by the land subdivider before any houses were built on this street. A house was never built in the right location to make use of the steps.



CONST.DATE:
EST:.1922.FACT:.....
ARCHITECT:
....Unknown.....
.....
BUILDER:.....
.....Unknown.....
APPROX.PROP.SIZE(FT)
FRONT:.75..DEPTH..75..
OR APPROX.ACREAGE:
.....
DATE(S) OF PHOTO(S):
.....1982.....

.....

DPR 523 (Rev. 4/79)

13. CONDITION: EXCELL.X.GOOD...FAIR...DETERIORATED.....
NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE.....
14. ALTERATIONS:....Room at front is newer addition.....
15. SURROUNDINGS:(CHK MORE THAN ONE IF NECESSARY)
OPEN LAND...SCATTERED BLDGS...DENSELY BUILT-UP.....
RESID.X..INDUST....COM'L....OTHER.....
16. THREAT TO SITE:NONE KNOWN.X..PVT DEVEL....ZONING.....
VANDALISM....PUBLIC WORK PROJECT....OTHER.....
17. IS STRUCT.:ON ITS ORIG SITE?.X.MOVED?...UNKNOWN?.....
18. RELATED FEATURES:..Rock faced block wall, trees.....

SIGNIFICANCE

19. BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE
(INCLUDE DATES,EVENTS,AND PERSON ASSOC. WITH THE SITE.)

Three generations of the Sperry family have owned this house which was built around 1922 by William Elmer Sperry and his wife, Anna. William Sperry held a U.S. Patent for the invention of a bicycle transmission. A son, Jay V. Sperry, acquired the house in 1935. Jay Sperry and his wife, Carrie, resided there in the 1950's. At the present time, George Sperry, a son of Jay V. Sperry, owns the house and uses it as a rental property. This small house is an example of a 1920's bungalow with Craftsman influence. Bungalows were popular in La Mesa in the 1920's, for these small homes gave families of modest means an opportunity to pursue the American dream - ownership of a home.

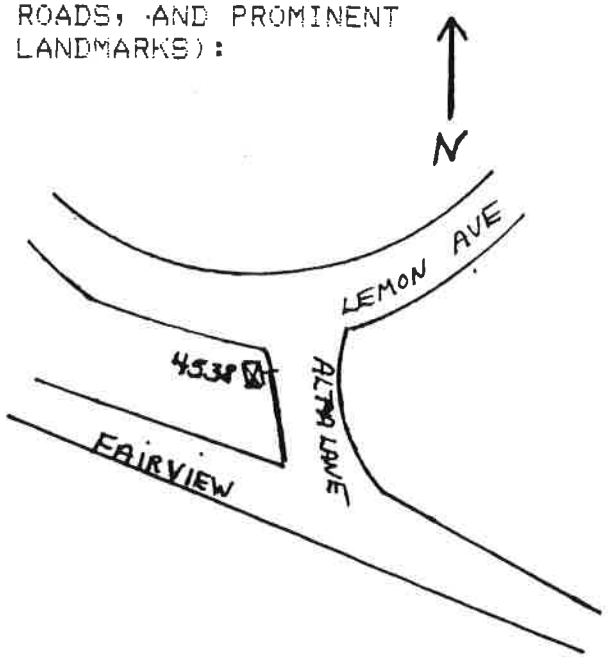
20. MAIN THEME OF THE HISTORIC RESOURCE:(IF MORE THAN ONE IS CHKD, NUMBER IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE.)
ARCHITECT.X.ARTS & LEISURE...
ECONOMIC/INDUSTRIAL.....
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT.....
GOVT....MILITARY...RELIG...
SOCIAL/EDUCATION.....

21. SOURCES(LIST BOOKS,DOCUMENTS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS,AND THEIR DATES).

Interview: Mrs. George Sperry
City and County Directories
County Recorders Office
Sanborn Fire Map

22. DATE FORM PREPARED.Mar'82....
BY(NAME)..CompuShare, Inc....
ORGANIZATION...of Calif.....
ADDRESS..2725 Barnson Pl.....
CITY..San Diego...ZIP.92103..
PHONE..(714)296-8619.....

LOCATIONAL SKETCH MAP
(DRAW AND LABEL SITE AND SURROUNDING STREETS, ROADS, AND PROMINENT LANDMARKS):



4538 Alta Lane
470-601-11
George E. & Claudia E. Sperry
8126 Fairview Ave.
La Mesa, 91941

9439 Alto Dr.
495-101-09
John E. & La Nelle A. Gardner, Trs
same 91941

5422 Arizona Ave.
464-340-09
William P. & Marie Louise Jones, TRS
same 91942

4871 Bancroft Dr.
495-232-1300
Thomas J. & Kathlen Tesluc
same 91941

(Russell House)

4797 Beaumont Dr.
495-332-01
John N. & Barbara L. Jones
same 91941

4894 Beaumont Dr.
495-262-02
Stephen F. & Barbara E. Barnes
same 91941

4830 Beaumont Dr.
495-261-24
Timothy & Vicki Root
9880 Bushlac Lane NW
Silverdale, WA 98383

4846 Beaumont Dr.
495-421-02
Lolita K. Gates
same 91941

4860 Beaumont Dr.
495-421-02
William H. & Jean L Olenik
same 91941

(4940 Beaumont Dr.)

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