

CRESCENT BAY #24

HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 5D SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 425620/3713600 B 425620/3712080
C 424400/3712080 D 424400/3713600

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Crescent Bay
2. Historic name: McKnight's Addition Section C
3. Street or rural address: Multiple
City Laguna Beach Zip 92651 County Orange
4. Parcel number: _____
5. Present Owner: Multiple Address: _____
City _____ Zip _____ Ownership is: Public _____ Private XX
6. Present Use: Single family residential Original use: Single family residential

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Period Revivals and Moderne
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Crescent Bay is a small enclave of residential estates on the bluff above Crescent Bay. There are seven units in the neighborhood which date prior to 1940; these include Spanish Mediterranean Revivals, a Norman Revival, a Tudor Revival and a Streamline Moderne. The houses are in excellent architectural condition and are well maintained. The majority of the remaining houses in the neighborhood date to the last two decades though they are of a similar size, scale and setback to those included here.

Attach Photo(s) Here

8. Construction date: 1928-39
Estimated _____ Factual XX
9. Architect Yann Egasse and unknown others
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 50' Depth 100'
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
November 1980

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

SIGNIFICANCE

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

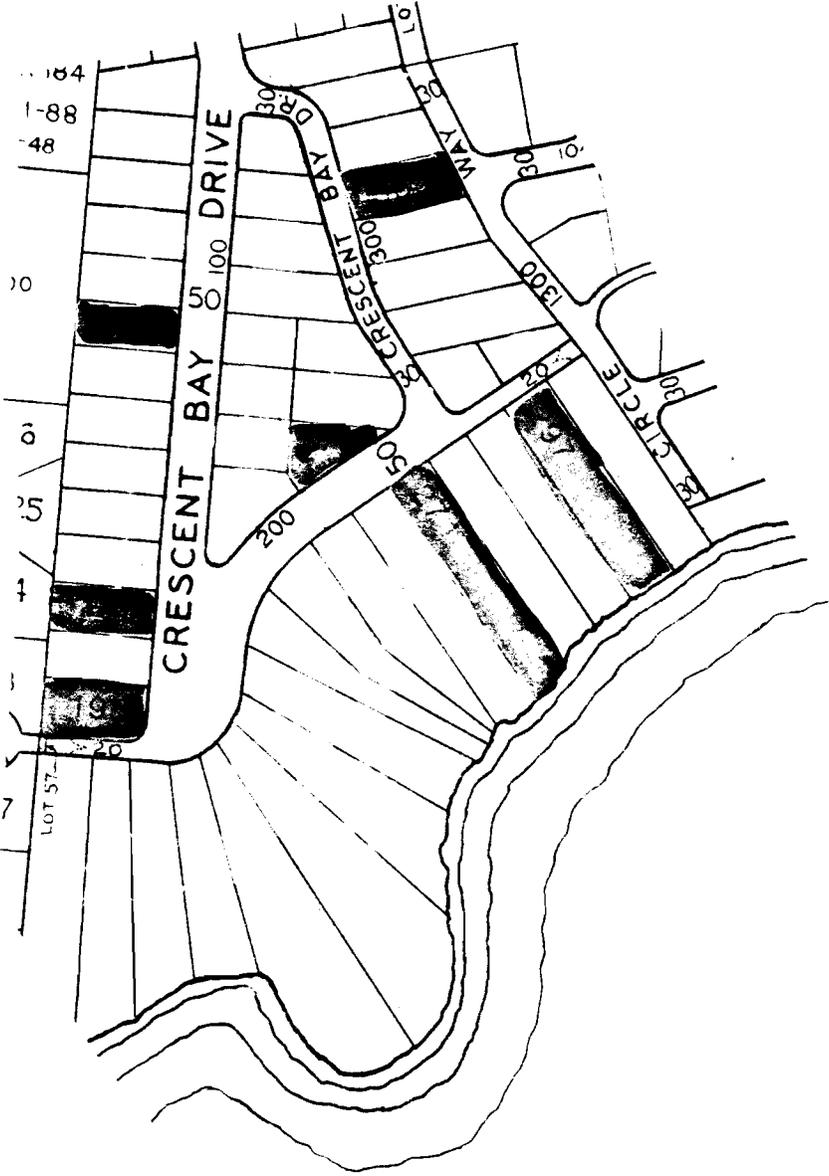
The Crescent Bay neighborhood was subdivided in 1928 and, at that time, called McKnights Addition Section. It was part of a larger phased subdivision generally referred to as Laguna Cliffs. Crescent Bay was one of the last portions of the City to be subdivided prior to W.W. II and became a desirable location for the wealthy from out of town to build their seasonal homes.

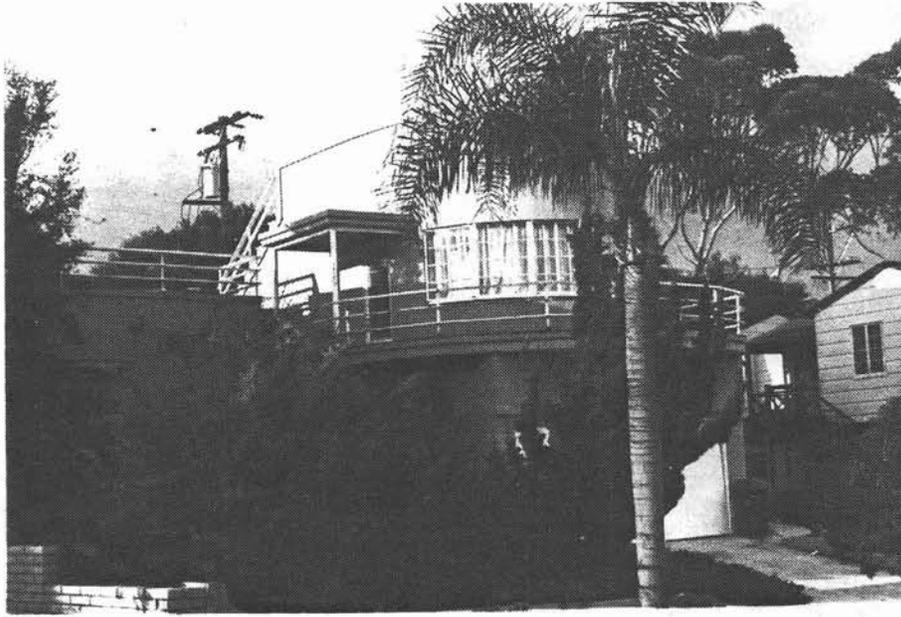
The homes included here are excellent examples of their style and represent the full-blown execution of styling and detailing possible by the wealthy in the late 20's and 30's. As a unit, they form a fine collection of Period Revival estate homes. The one Streamline Moderne home is the best example in Laguna and only one of three which exist here.

- 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 _____
- 21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).
 Orange Co. Assessors Records
 Orange Co. Recorders Office
 City Directories, 1932-45
 Laguna Life/South Coast News
- 22. Date form prepared April 1981
 By (name) Kathleen Les
 Organization Environmental Coalition
 Address: 206 W. 4th St., Ste. 316
 City Santa Ana Zip 92701
 Phone: (714) 836-4314

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

CRESCENT BAY NEIGHBORHOOD





1. 147 Crescent Bay 1936 (E)

A Streamline Moderne house of the type which launched the departure from Craftsman residential architecture to the Moderne styles. The house has the steamship quality common of the Streamline style. The main portion of the house has a box plan, but a large rounded wing projects in the front. This projection, the most notable part of the house, is two story with curved multi-paned windows and metal railing which extends to the main portion of the house.

The entry is recessed under the overhang formed by the curved terrace; a second story entry has a small hooded overhang supported by wood posts. The roof is flat on both levels. A stairway ascends from the first to second story in the rear further providing the steamship quality.

The house was built for Mr. and Mrs. Howard Turney, a director at MGM and resident of Los Angeles. It appears that the Turneys owned the house through the 1940's and possibly beyond. The architect was Aubrey St.Clair and the builder was Smith Contractors. Both are well-known local building trades people.



2. 183 Crescent Bay

1930 (E)

A two-story Spanish Mediterranean Revival estate home with an irregular-plan, a multi-faceted tiled roofline and characteristic stucco siding. The house derives its major architectural personality from the complex of turrets and gable faces which emerge from each other and occur at staggered elevations.

Elongated picture windows, some of which are curved, arched and rectangular, are contrasted with very small peep windows on the second story.

Wrought iron railing around the main arched front window and over each of the peep windows in addition to the decorative tiling at the eaves heighten the Spanish aura.



3. 195 Crescent Bay 1928 (E)

A single-story Mediterranean Revival house with an L-plan, multi-gabled roofline and stucco siding. Two main gables are front facing, have large fixed pane picture windows and highlight tiling along the eaves. The entry is at the apex of the "L" and is accessed by a stoop leading to an arched enclosure.

Beginning in the 30's, this was the home of C.C. Cravath. Cravath was a local favorite personality and had been around Laguna for a time prior to living here. As of 1932, Cravath was a former member of the Philadelphia National League and had led the Nationals in batting for two seasons in addition to being known as the home run king before Babe Ruth. When he came to Laguna Beach, he became the City Judge and Justice of the Peace. He is fondly remembered for his way with people; it is said that he did more to prevent wrong-doing so that he could keep his need for administering punishment to a minimum. Cravath also dabbled in real estate and is said to have built a small shack in the triangular park across from this house where he did his real estate trading.



4. 271 Crescent Bay 1936 (E)

A Mediterranean Revival estate home cascading down the bluff. The house has an irregular plan, boxy proportions, and tile hipped roof. Entry is via a courtyard-like patio, but orientation of the house is toward the ocean. Second story is stepped back from lower story; both have terraces. Chimney is brick with arched openings. French doors are located on the first story oceanside.



5. 272 Crescent Bay 1930 (K)

A Mediterranean Revival house with modified "L" plan, multi-gabled roof with stucco siding. The tiled roof, slightly recessed windows and pigeon holes in the gable face impart the Mediterranean quality. The house is multi-faceted from the use of varying elevations and projecting roofs and faces.