



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | June 1, 2020

CLAREMONT HERITAGE ANNOUNCES 38th ANNUAL HOME TOUR
A VIRTUAL EVENT | OCT 9 – 11, 2020 | “OUR TOWN ~ SMALL HOMES and ADUs”

CONTACT: David Shearer director@claremontheritage.org or (909) 621-0848

***Join us the weekend of October 9 – 11th for Claremont Heritage's very first VIRTUAL HOME TOUR.
More details coming soon!***

This is Claremont Heritage's 38th Annual Heritage Home Tour and the 2020 Theme is
“Our Town ~ Small Homes and ADUs”

Overview

Historically our annual Home Tour is enjoyed by hundreds of enthusiasts, many who make it a yearly tradition, and some who travel hundreds of miles to enjoy docent lead tours of Claremont's fine inventory of residential architecture. Often there is a theme or particular neighborhood that is explored, bringing new insight to the history of Claremont's built environment.

As we prepare for our 38. th Annual Home Tour, coming up in mid-October, we are confronted with the uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic, not knowing if there will be a second wave – what social distancing rules will be in place etc. so we have decided to hold the tour ***virtually***, and after the acclaimed success of ***“Our Town Live”***, the virtual Gala we produced in May, we are confident that we can deliver the goods, albeit in a very different format.

We are delighted to invite you to experience the **2020 Claremont Heritage Home Tour, “Our Town ~ Small Homes and ADU's”**, taking place ***virtually*** the weekend of October 9-11, 2020.

Background

Although Claremont has its share of significant architect designed houses, most of Claremont's houses are small, more diminutive in scale. This is one of the reasons they are overlooked for architectural details or merit. Preservation was once an elitist oriented activity, focusing primarily on the more magnificent houses of the rich or famous. Today the preservation movement's focus is on saving a community's *sense of place*, in its neighborhoods or environments, not just monuments.

The majority of the homes built in Claremont prior to 1940 were done so from pattern books, by merchant builders, from kits, or modeled after architect-designed structures. Most were small in scale and indicative of what Claremont Historian, Judy Wright called “fine democratic houses” as opposed to many of the larger houses commissioned by wealthy clients.

A consistent development pattern in Claremont is the importance of the corner house. On many blocks in Historic and Old Claremont, the corner houses are anchors. Builders finished the corner houses and used them to lure buyers for the rest of the lots on the blocks.

Statistics

Today, just 8 % of the homes in Claremont were built before 1940, making their preservation even more important. 54% were built from 1940 – 1969 and 31% built from 1970 – 1999. Only about 7% have been built since 2000. Of the housing in Claremont, 71% are single family and 68% are three bedrooms and under and of those 33% are two bedrooms or less.

Conclusion

This year's Home Tour will be an interesting experiment, trying to move a traditionally live event where the sense of place of a home is experienced physically, to one where it is experienced virtually. This in and of itself is a huge undertaking! However, it is also an opportunity! By going virtual, we can expand the reach of how many will experience this event... The technology available today will enable people from anywhere in the world to attend this event, giving us the ability to bring added value to the virtual landscape by adding touch-points of information and history will help to create a rich, content filled experience that could not be conveyed at a physical event.

Claremont Heritage is very excited to bring this groundbreaking virtual event to you! Look for specifics coming soon!

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Shearer', enclosed in a thin yellow rectangular border.

David Shearer
Executive Director

###