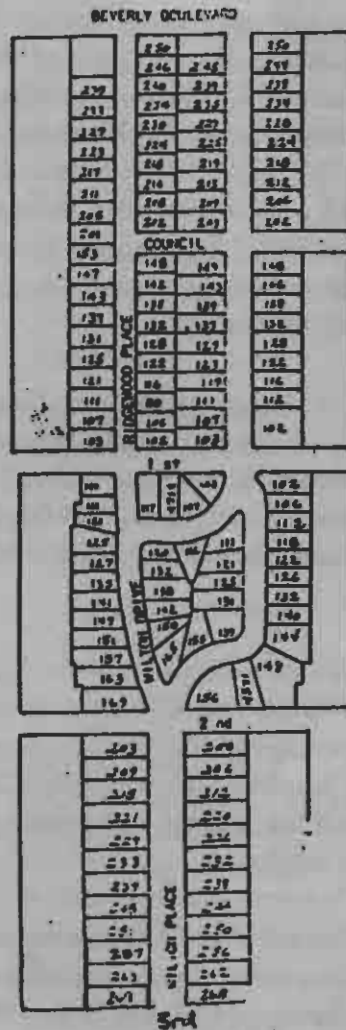


Wilton Historic District

Los Angeles, California



The Wilton Historic District, an area bounded by Third Street on the south, First Street on the north, and encompassing Wilton Place and Wilton Drive, lies within the boundaries of the Ridgewood-Wilton Neighborhood Association (RWNA), which extends north of First Street to Beverly Boulevard and includes Wilton Place and Ridgewood Drive. It was directly due to the efforts of the RWNA that this historic district was created.

The area along Wilton Place and Wilton Drive between Third Street and First Street in Los Angeles was developed during the first decade of the Twentieth Century. It was planned as an upper/middle-class, single-family, residential area and was located on the far northwestern boundary of the City. About half of the sixty-five structures were built before the beginning of the First World War. The remaining houses were completed in the decade following the War with only two exceptions, both constructed in the mid-30s. This concentrated period of building and the fact that there have been virtually no major changes or alterations in the intervening years have resulted in an unusually homogeneous neighborhood highlighted with fine examples of two-story Craftsman bungalows and slightly later Colonial Revival residences. An additional unique feature of this area is the unusual street configuration which was developed to join the already existing alignments of Wilton Place north of First Street and south of Third. Many builders in this area effectively utilized the curving streets to give prominence to their structures, siting them with great care in order to take advantage of the interesting vistas.

Around 1900 the District was being used as a vegetable garden and chicken ranch by the Plummer family to supply food for their restaurant in the Plaza in downtown Los Angeles. It made up the central portion of Plummer Square, was recorded with the County of Los Angeles on January 28, 1896, and included the area between Western Avenue and Westminster (now just west of Norton) and Second Street (now First) and Fourth Street (now Third). On January 8, 1907, John L. Plummer filed a tract map with the County of Los Angeles for the area along Wilton Place between the present Second and Third Streets. A tract map for the area between Second and First Streets was filed in May of 1907 by E. T. Wright and slightly modified in June of 1908. The area was annexed by the City of Los Angeles on October 27, 1909. The only change recorded for the area since then occurred in October of 1912 when Ridgewood Place was cut through south of First Street to join up with Wilton Drive.

The District contains numerous fine examples of two-story Craftsman bungalows such as those at 111, 121, 122, and 140 South Wilton Place and 103, 117, 125, 127, 147, and 157 South Wilton Drive. Typical examples of stained, leaded glass of the period can be seen at 118 and 221 South Wilton Place and 135 South Wilton Drive, and fine examples of clear, sometimes beveled, leaded glass can be found at 200, 220, and 239 South Wilton Place. Seen together, these houses give a particularly complete picture of the Craftsman style of architecture between 1905-1920 as found in Los Angeles.

There are also numerous notable examples of two-story Colonial Revival bungalows such as those at 148, 203, and 269 South Wilton Place and 132 South Wilton Drive. Of particular interest is the monumental Classical Revival residence at 212 South Wilton Place with its imposing two-story portico and composit capitals on paired columns. Other noteworthy examples are the very sophisticated American Colonial Revival house at 226 South Wilton Place, the Dutch Colonial Revival residence at 155 South Wilton Place, and the impressive Spanish and Mission Revival structure at 156 South Wilton Place with its subtle leaded glass windows.

Some of the most interesting houses, however, are not as important as examples of a particular style as they are for their relationship to the street and the neighboring structures. Certain houses gain distinction from their location and their unique siting. One of the most impressive is the house at 165 South Wilton Place which is positioned on the point created by the divergence of Wilton Place and Wilton Drive at Second Street. Other structures distinctly sited are at 139 and 156 South Wilton Place where entries are located at the corners of each house, and at 111 South Wilton Place where a pergola extending from the north side of the house contributes to the pleasure derived from the unexpected view of this delightful facade. Other houses are memorable for their relationship to each other such as those along the west side of Wilton Drive where the repeatedly stepped-back siting of each house creates a charmingly different vista.

In May of 1979, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, Dr. Knox Mellon, recommended the District be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. On July 24, 1979, the Wilton Historic District became the third area in the City of Los Angeles to be so honored.

1. 269 South Wilton Place
American Colonial Revival, 1914
This house was moved from 4865 Clinton Street to this location in 1921.
2. 268 South Wilton Place
1937
This house was built after the original Frank Tyler residence was moved to 100 North Van Ness.
3. 263 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1910
A fine example of the use of clinker brick can be found in this house.
4. 262 South Wilton Place
Mission Style, 1917
Architect: H. Whiteley
5. 257 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1914
Architect: H. J. Knauer
6. 256 South Wilton Place
American Colonial Revival, 1924
Architect: Kenneth Kahn
7. 251 South Wilton Place
1919
8. 250 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1910
This bungalow was designed by the same unknown architect who did 220 and 221 South Wilton Place.
9. 245 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1912
Architect: Thomas Powers
Many Classical details enhance this house. The front door is particularly interesting.
10. 244 South Wilton Place
Tudor and Swiss Chalet Bungalow, 1912
Architect: Frank Tyler
This is one of the most interesting houses in the District.
11. 239 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1909
In the bay window on the first floor is a typical example of leaded glass of the period.
12. 238 South Wilton Place
Renaissance Revival, 1920
Architect: Frank Tyler
This house is the only one in the District constructed of concrete.
13. 233 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1910
Once the home of the well-known minister, Baker P. Lee, this house has an unusual hexagonal gable.
14. 232 South Wilton Place
American Colonial Revival, 1921
Architect: J. M. Haff
15. 227 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1909-10
This house displays some Colonial Revival details as well as fine leaded glass on either side of the main entrance.
16. 226 South Wilton Place
American Colonial Revival, 1920
This is a very fine example of this style of architecture.
17. 221 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1909-10
The retaining wall and the stained glass window under the porte-cochere are original.
18. 220 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1912
There is a beautiful beveled and leaded glass window in the front door.
19. 215 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1909-10
Architect: Pierpont Davis
The retaining wall is original, and the first owner's initials are part of the design of the leaded glass in the front door.
20. 212 South Wilton Place
Classical Revival, 1908
The grandest residence in the District, this house was once the home of the famous actor, Lewis Stone.
21. 209 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1912
Architect: H. J. Knauer
This is a typical Craftsman Bungalow and one of the finest examples in the District.
22. 206 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1908
23. 203 South Wilton Place
American Colonial Revival, 1936
24. 200 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1904
This house was built at 651 South Westlake Avenue and moved to this site in 1920.
25. 165 South Wilton Place
American Colonial Revival, 1919
Its unusual site enhances this house.
26. 156 South Wilton Place
Spanish and Mission Colonial Revival, 1922
Architect: Elwin Norberg
This residence is interestingly sited to the street and contains some examples of leaded glass not found elsewhere in the District.
27. 155 South Wilton Place
Dutch Colonial Revival, 1920
Architect: Edward Cray Taylor
Designed for Emma Bogue, a local sculptress, this house and its gardens contain numerous fine examples of her work.
28. 152 South Wilton Place
1921
29. 139 South Wilton Place
1922
Architect: R. J. Kieffer
This house demonstrates numerous Italian Renaissance influences, including the broken pediment over the entrance. It is sited to the street in an interesting manner with the entrance at the corner.
30. 148 South Wilton Place
American Colonial Revival, 1919
Architect: Preston Wright
An unusual feature of this residence is its Adamesque doorway with fan window.
31. 131 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, c. 1914
An unusual entrance at the side of the house enhances its relationship to the street.

32. 144 South Wilton Place
Late Mission Revival, 1920
33. 125 South Wilton Place
1921
Architect: E. W. Stillwell
The garage has a turntable in the floor to turn the car around so there is no need to back out of the driveway!
34. 140 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1910
35. 121 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1913
Architect: F. L. Perry
This is a classic two-story bungalow and is one of the finest in the District.
36. 132 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1912
37. 111 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1916
Architect: H. H. Whiteley
Interestingly sited to the street, this house boasts an unusual hooded porch.
38. 126 South Wilton Place
Dutch Colonial Revival, 1919-20
Architects: Montgomery & Nibecker
39. 103 South Wilton Drive
Craftsman Bungalow, 1913
40. 122 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1913
Architect: W. L. Truitt
41. 107 South Wilton Drive
Dutch Colonial Revival, 1916
42. 118 South Wilton Place
Craftsman Bungalow, 1912
Oriental influences enhance this bungalow as well as its colored leaded glass window.
43. 115 South Wilton Drive
English Tudor Revival, 1925
44. 112 South Wilton Drive
Craftsman Bungalow, 1911
45. 117 South Wilton Drive
Craftsman Bungalow, 1910
46. 106 South Wilton Place
English Tudor Revival, 1921
Architect: H. C. Bradley
47. 101 South Ridgewood Place
American Colonial Revival, 1919
48. 102 South Wilton Place
American Colonial Revival, 1919
49. 111 South Ridgewood Place
American Colonial Revival, 1918
50. 116 South Wilton Drive
West Coast Prairie Style, 1916
Architect: Henry M. Jones
51. 121 South Wilton Drive
Dutch Colonial Revival, 1918
52. 120 South Wilton Drive
Late Mission Style, 1916-17
53. 125 South Wilton Drive
Craftsman Bungalow, 1909
Swiss Chalet and Oriental influences are visible in this bungalow.
54. 132 South Wilton Drive
Dutch Colonial Revival, 1917
55. 127 South Wilton Drive
Craftsman Bungalow, 1911
56. 138 South Wilton Drive
1919-20
Architects: Newton & Williams
57. 135 South Wilton Drive
Craftsman Bungalow, 1911
On the north side is a fine example of colored leaded glass.
58. 142 South Wilton Drive
Craftsman Bungalow, 1907
This is the first house built in the District.
59. 141 South Wilton Drive
Dutch Colonial Revival, 1919
60. 150 South Wilton Drive
1922
Architect: Rex Weston
61. 147 South Wilton Drive
Craftsman Bungalow, 1912
Architect: H. J. Knauer
This is the third residence designed by Knauer in the District.
62. 151 South Wilton Drive
1920
Architect: S. M. Cooper
63. 157 South Wilton Drive
Craftsman Bungalow, 1912
The long sweep of the eave gives a real distinction to this house.
64. 163 South Wilton Drive
American Colonial Revival, 1918
Architect: Frank Tyler
One of the four houses designed by Tyler in the District, this residence has recently been repainted in its original colors.
65. 169 South Wilton Drive
Colonial Bungalow, 1920
Architect: Frank Tyler
Strong Mission Revival touches are evident in the porch of this house.