

MAYBERRY HOME - 8050 Capitola Ave  
By Old Homes Editor Sally Dunbar - July, 2015

We had another collective breath holding as the historic Mayberry Home on Capitola near Bridge St recently sold to a new owner. Would they demolish, or restore it? It was in pretty rough shape, having nrrm unoccupied for about 10 years. But once again, we needn't have worried. The perfect new owners now own a piece of our Fair Oaks history. Diana and Robert Mills are lovingly restoring and renovating their new home at 8050 Capitola Avenue, combining Robert's skills as a General Contractor and Diana's as a Landscape Designer.



It is hard to know when and by whom our historic homes were built. In this case, it is like solving a jigsaw puzzle. Best guess is the home was built by Sacramento Banker Albert L. Darrow around 1906 as a summer residence. USGS Survey Maps indicate no structure on the site in 1903, but shows a home there in 1910.

Additionally the Historic Society has a photo of Albert Fowler and Edna Marshall's wedding party on the front porch of the Mayberry Home in May of 1908. To narrow the date further, we look to the owner of the property in 1910, which was A. L. Darrow. Public records show Darrow came to Sacramento from SF in 1905 to organize the Fort Sutter National Bank. He was President of the California Corporation, which was formed to invest in Fair Oaks. So our best sleuthing dates the home to 1906.



But why did he build it? It was common for wealthy Sacramento residents to invest in the new Fair Oaks colony and build a getaway home, either renting it or hiring a housekeeper when not in use. The home is small, and permanent homes of the time tended to be larger. We are guessing that at the time of her marriage, Edna was either renting or housekeeping at the home - a common occupation for young ladies of the time.



We know the Radke family, and later daughter Winnifred Codman, owned but did not live in the home from 1913 to 1937. Then in 1937 the property was purchased by Wade Mayberry, the Stationmaster of the FO Train Depot just across the FO Bridge, until Wade's death in 1968. Daughter Patsy Tice then inherited the property, later becoming a Pimental - the last owner of the property before the Mill's purchase in 2014.

Now that the Mills are owners, they are keeping the cottagey feel of the original home, adding to the original hardwood floors, softening the paint colors throughout, adding molding and archways, and straightening out the original staircase to the attic bedroom - recently painted for only the second time in a century! They plan to add a big eyebrow window to the upstairs, and a master bedroom and bath off the back, using the home's original refurbished tub. Much of the original woodwork, door jambs and doors are present, as well as many original windows.