

SIX ROOMS BATH AND PORCH



The Walton, a Honor Bilt Craftsman-style kit home from Sears and Roebuck Co. priced at \$2,745 in 1923, is strikingly similar to two Floral Park homes on 19th and Ross Streets built in the same year with a virtually identical floor plan.

FLORAL PARK ARCHITECTURE: CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW

BY DAVID KO

At the turn of the 20th century, Floral Park entered a new phase of optimism among agricultural barons. A wide array of distribution networks enabled farmers to transport fresh crops to other populated cities.

As demand rose, so did the farming operation. Modest Craftsman homes soon started appearing along 19th Street to house the agricultural workforce and caretakers.

This was an ideal location due to its proximity to

the orchards and 17th street, the primary transportation corridor to the shipping industry in Long Beach and the earliest paved road to other populated cities. By the mid-twenties, Alison Honer, developer, and builder, acquired the orchard closest to 17th Street and built various sizes and styles of larger houses around existing avocado trees in the southwest portion of Floral Park, the first master-planned neighborhood in Orange County.

The diverse range and flexibility of Bungalow homes appealed to people with a variety of budgets. The modest

single-story boxy versions were built cost-effectively in Floral Park from the same stocked plans. By varying the applied-on frontal porch width, depth, and locations, similar boxy houses with this simple technique made each house look different. This style became so popular that Sears, Roebuck, and other manufacturers soon began shipping pre-cut bungalow kits by the tens of thousands. Cost-cutting from buyers and builders led to cheaper

materials, smaller porches and eaves, and fewer built-ins. Some bought Sears Roebuck's craftsman house kits and assembled them on small plots in Floral Park. The kits also came in the form of a duplex. Unfortunately, due to shipping weight and bulk, these assembled structures went with a lighter and less durable wood, requiring paint and varnish to lengthen the life of materials.

The two-story homes built in Pasadena for the Gamble family (Proctor & Gamble) and other wealthy patrons seeking a milder climate where they could escape the east coast winter cold, were the fancier versions. Most Craftsman houses were single-story. Health experts also promoted Southern California's dry weather, a perfect healing remedy for many folks back east with respiratory health issues such as tuberculosis or asthma. California Craftsman Bungalow was an ideal architectural design for people who came to California and appreciated the more relaxed lifestyle, climate, and topography.

Wide, low-slung, gabled roofs emblematic of the style, offered plenty of shade for the broad porches below. The abundant windows also maximized year-round sunny days; sleeping porches were used during a summer night, equipped with insect screens and louvered shutters. In the winter, prominent fireplaces kept the homes toasty. The flow of fresh air and natural light which united indoors and outdoors was not feasible in most other places in the United States.

The California Craftsman Bungalow saw its heyday from about 1900 to 1915, when the need for new housing dovetailed with the handmade, back-to-nature ethos of the Arts and Crafts movement which was first introduced at the monumental event that united the world—the World's Fair.

Worlds Fairs have introduced many architectural marvels: the Eiffel Tower at the 1889 Paris World's Fair and the Ferris wheel at the Chicago's World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. The first bungalows in the United States, as we might recognize them, appeared after the Philadelphia Centennial celebrations of 1876. The Arts and Crafts movements inspired a new breed of architects and designers to create archi-

sive windows and French doors. The artistry essential to the style is in the wood joinery connections designed to resist earthquakes, inspired by Oriental building techniques found in temples and pagodas, specifically the Japanese Pavilion exhibit at the Chicago Worlds Fair. The superintendent responsible for the Fair's operation a few years later became a father to his son named Walt. The architect team of Greene brothers moved to California and pioneered the craftsman style. While traveling by train from Boston, they stopped at the Chicago World's Fair and saw the Japanese Pavilion. This experience made a lasting impression on them both. The oriental aesthetic inspired them, and their

There are few architectural styles that are more distinctly American than that of Craftsman style homes and bungalows.

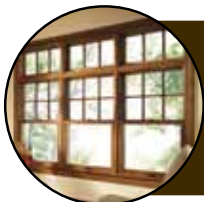
ture, furniture, and decorative arts under one unified theme where form follows function. For the first time in history, designers incorporated built-in furniture, fireplaces, cupboards, bookcases, interior textures, staircase, doors, light fixtures, even tables and chairs that echoed the house theme.

Like a table or chair using legs and stiles, Craftsman houses were constructed from posts and beams and not bearing walls, allowing more expan-

works defined their legacy forever.

Popularity of the Craftsman Bungalow style soon spread across the United States. Still, most importantly, photography and printing technology made richly illustrated pictorials of Craftsman houses a staple in standard household periodicals. Craftsman's multifaceted approaches lay in its flexibility and ability to adapt to different sizes, scales, materials, details, and regions. Gustave Stickley, a furniture

The Craftsman style developed in the late 19th century. It first appeared in Southern California and spread throughout the country by means of pattern books and popular magazines. The style is characterized by:



MULTI-PANE WINDOWS

Multi-pane upper sashes over a single pane in the lower sash is a typical pattern.



DEEP PORCHES

Wide, deep front porches are a common feature, often under the main roofline.



NATURAL MATERIALS

Stone, brick and wood are all common Craftsman materials used on walls and roofs.



LOW-PITCHED ROOFS

Low-pitched gabled roofs are supported by beam ends and brackets.

maker turned promoter of the Arts and Crafts movement in America, popularized the style through his influential magazine *The Craftsman* in the early twentieth century. Stickley's furniture and magazine emphasized simplicity in form, use of local materials, and honesty in construction. *The Craftsman* began publishing and selling house plans that embodied these characteristics, which made superior home design available to the masses. A few homes in Floral Park resembled some Stickley plans with East Coast Cottage accent. The Craftsman derivatives were endless.

The Craftsman's lack of pretension rebuffed fussy Victorian architecture. The unity with nature and handmade details rejected the cheap mass production of the Industrial Revolution and the impractical maintenance of the cosmetic exterior finishes. The extended deep overhang of simple roof forms, its exposed beams, rafters, and other structural details, were a more honest and functional aesthetic than applied



In the lower right section of this 1909 track map of Floral Park is the intersection of 17th Street and Broadway. The Craftsman houses on 19th Street between Broadway and Victoria are the oldest and were built during the 1910s. Those built between Victoria and Greenleaf in the early 1920s are not yet shown on the map. The empty parcels were the orchards and citrus groves. Notice on the map across Broadway above 19th Street the words "orange groves tract."

on gingerbread. High-quality, old-growth natural materials, deliberately untreated left to patina into the dark

and feathery grey, took on the colors of nature, minimizing extensive maintenance. The deep overhangs protected the wood from sun and rain damage. Architects employed local materials and finishes: California redwood, river rock from the foothills of Southern California, handcrafted Batchelder tiles from the local kiln, earth tones on painted surfaces, and dark natural wood for the rest. This careful material treatment created a timeless structures using sustainable resources.

As we walk Floral Park we see groupings of Craftsman houses on small lots. These homes, built near the edges of communities, closest to the principal streets, took advantage of the shortest connection to existing utilities. Over time, the orchards around the houses became land plots for period revival homes and a hierarchy of streets. The rich woven fabric of Floral Park evolved in perfect harmony. Observe closely—each stitch has its unique history and story to tell.



Honor Bilt
The Walton
 No. 13050 "Already Cut" and Fitted.
 \$2,734⁰⁰



Numerous Craftsman style bungalows were built along 19th and Ross Streets during the 1910s and 1920s in the Southeast corner of what would later become Floral Park. Several strongly resemble Honor Bilt kit homes from Sears in both appearance and floor plan including "The Walton".