

Gone, but not forgotten

The winter residence of Newton Claypool, Terrace Drive

[Editor's note: The Pasadena Museum of History graciously provides WPRA News readers with historical vignettes to relive our past and inform our future.]

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On July 8, 1895 the *Pasadena Daily Evening Star* reported that construction had begun on the foundation of a home it predicted “will be one of the costliest and handsomest houses in the city.” Edward Fay Claypool, one of the wealthiest men in Indiana, together with his son Newton, had chosen a “commanding site on the [Orange] Grove street hill” overlooking Terrace Drive. The *Star* had earlier noted that “the view is one of the choicest to be found in the city.”

When the home was later sold to Eldridge M. Fowler in 1901, the *Star* observed that “the Claypool residence is one of the finest in Pasadena. The grounds contain two acres, and are beautifully laid out and planted to rare trees, shrubs and flowers.” It characterized the residence as “a magnificent Moorish structure.”

Eldridge Fowler, a wealthy lumberman and financier, was a brother-in-law of Cyrus McCormick, inventor of the reaper. Pasadena historian Lon F. Chapin wrote that Mr. Fowler’s “business successes had been gained by foresight and enlightened principles of benefiting others while gaining a fortune that was still regarded as a public trust.”

In 1915, Mrs. Fowler made a number of additions to the property, including a tempietto [a small temple-like building], pools, a fountain and a pergola. Today, this

area is known as the Fowler Garden, on the grounds of the former Ambassador College campus.

Noted architect Myron Hunt completely remodeled the home in 1922, replacing the original Moorish contours with stucco walls and a flat roof. In 1947 the home was the first building purchased by Ambassador College, and later served as the college library until 1990.

It was demolished in 2012 by City Ventures to make way for the 21 condominium units in the second series of new residences.

The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of N. Orange Grove and W. Walnut. Parking is free in the museum's lot. The Research Library and Archives are open to the public free of charge Thursday-Sunday from 1-4 pm. For additional information, please visit the Museum's website, PasadenaHistory.org, or call 626/577-1660, ext. 10.



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