



FRESNO HIGH
NEIGHBORHOOD
HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

— 2023 Holiday Tour Homes —

The map for the homes on this year's tour is displayed below. On the following pages you will find the home descriptions describing unique details and features of this year's homes.

This document has been formatted to be printed out and carried with you on the tour for easy reference.

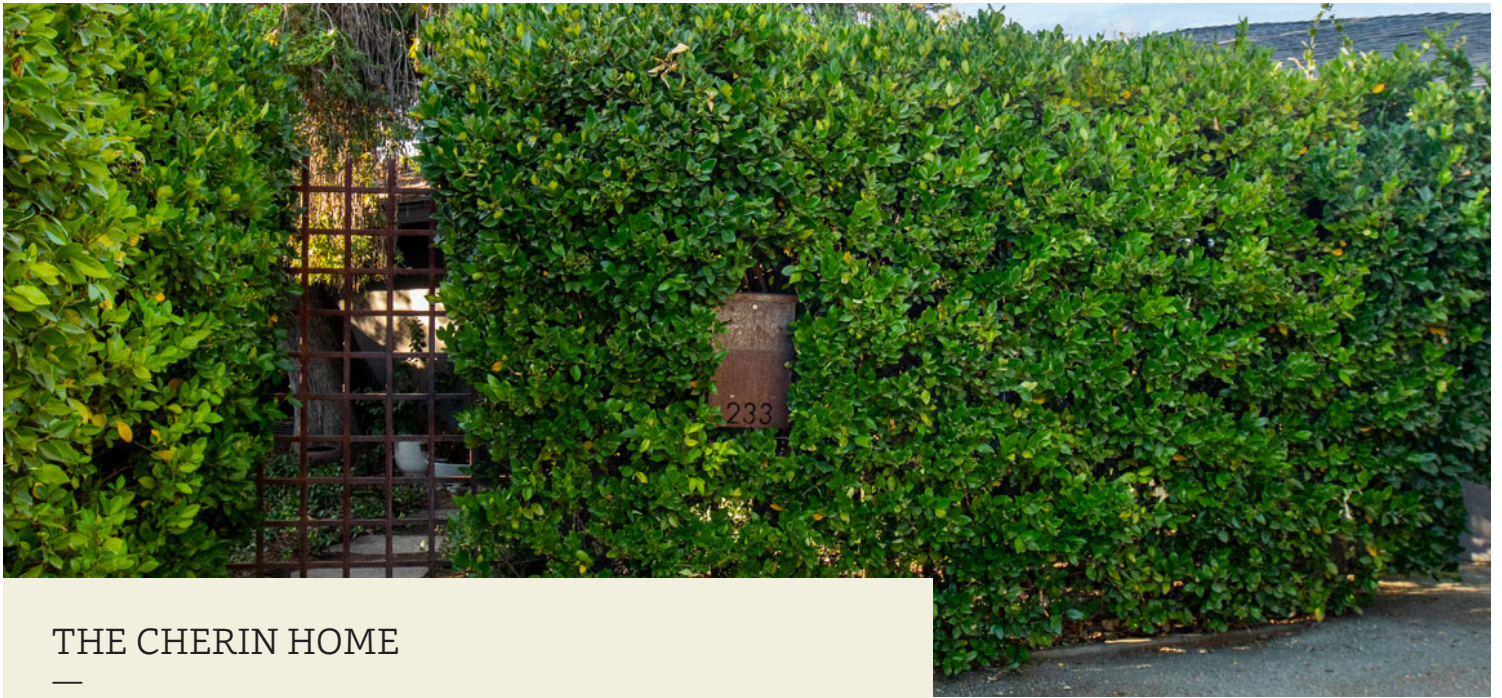
Enjoy the tour!

Tour Etiquette

- Getting started: A pre-tour party at Moto across from the high school will start at 4:00pm and end at 6:00pm. Food and drinks can be purchased there. The home tour will begin promptly at 5:30.
- Please have either your paper ticket or your online ticket ready to show at each home.
- Be sure to wear comfortable shoes. You will be given paper booties at the first home you enter. Please carry them with you from one home to another.
- Please be careful with steps and stairs.
- No photos are allowed inside the homes.
- No food, drinks or smoking allowed.
- Restroom facilities are only available at St. Therese Church.
- Please make sure to end your tour by 8:30.
- Masks are not required this year but you may want to wear one when in close quarters in the houses.
- Parking is available at St. Therese Church.
- Tickets can be purchased at Moto the night of the tour.
- Donations can be made online to help fund the trashcans, benches and murals that are being made by Fresno High students for the new parklet at Van Ness and Weldon. Sponsors may donate \$500 to fund a FHS student scholarship.
- We hope you enjoy the tour. Thanks so much for supporting us. Happy Holidays!

Tour Map





THE CHERIN HOME

—
233 E. Cornell Avenue

Built in 1950 for Alfred and Mini Cherin by local Architect Robert Stevens, this house is an excellent example of mid-century modern design. Stevens is a prominent figure in Fresno's mid-century design history and is credited with pioneering the "garden office" architectural style. An excellent example of this style can be seen in the office complex designed by Stevens at 5151 Palm, across from Fig Garden Village. Stevens also designed many noteworthy commercial and residential buildings throughout Fresno, including the Citibank (with the large Abacus sculpture) on Ashlan and Blackstone.

The home is 2200 square feet and has three bedrooms and two bathrooms. Like many such homes, it has a modest facade largely concealed from view by landscaping. The front yard creates privacy for the homeowners. It is the interior and rear elevation of the home that mark this residence as distinctive.

The previous homeowner was award-winning interior designer, Michael Weil. As you tour the home you will have the opportunity to experience the creativity of the architect and the interior designer. The has is also registered as an historic home.

Special designs to look for include polished concrete floors. The kitchen has been remodeled and features stainless steel countertops, a built-in breakfast nook and beautiful floor to ceiling cabinetry.

The open living room and dining room have floor to ceiling glass walls that overlook the backyard and the pool. Speakers throughout the home provide music from an audio room that features a variety of sources. The current homeowner has collected artwork over the years that is displayed throughout the home.



THE DIEL HOME

—
2906 N. Van Ness Avenue

This Spanish-Mediterranean style 1936 historic “Schmeiser” residence has been home to the Diel family for six years, and is lovingly known as a hub of entertaining for family and friends as well as well as being filled with a noteworthy collection of fine art. The 3,572 square foot home on three levels was built by Walker and Walker and was the first home completed in this neighborhood, known then as “Normal View Heights.”

Original details abound in the Diel home. Mahogany doors and molding, oak floors, arched windows, and a barrel-vaulted ceiling in the living room speak to the grandeur of this architectural gem. Intricate original tile in varying hues imbue each of the three bathrooms with the magical aesthetic of 1930s fine home design.

Each of the five bedrooms has walk-in closets with built-in wardrobes and shoe racks while one bedroom features French doors opening onto an upstairs veranda overlooking Van Ness Boulevard. The living room fireplace is embellished with precious Batchelder tile work. Custom features include built-in bookcases in the “office” and a corner hutch in the breakfast room, across from a spacious bay window.

The thoughtful kitchen remodel with modern Viking appliances features restored original cabinet doors and hardware, and the walk-through pantry retains the original built-in refrigerator, now used for storage.

Mature landscaping surrounding the home provides shelter to multiple front and backyard patios and entertaining spaces, while a monumental original wall built (at tremendous cost) of Carmel sandstone defines the property to the north and east. A three-car garage was truly an unusual feature in the 1930s and functions well for today’s lifestyles.



THE OLIVAS HOME

—
402 E. Harvard Avenue

This Tudor style home was built in 1935 and is a little over 1440 square feet. Originally it had three bedrooms and one bathroom. Like so many of the homes in this neighborhood, it is a Taylor-Wheeler: the tiled fireplace is a signature feature of a Taylor-Wheeler home. The outside of the windows around the house have been removed to include better framing.

The oak flooring throughout the house is original. The concaved ceiling in the dining room is typical for a Taylor-Wheeler home as are the builtins. The china cabinet is a family heirloom. The dining room table is solid oak.

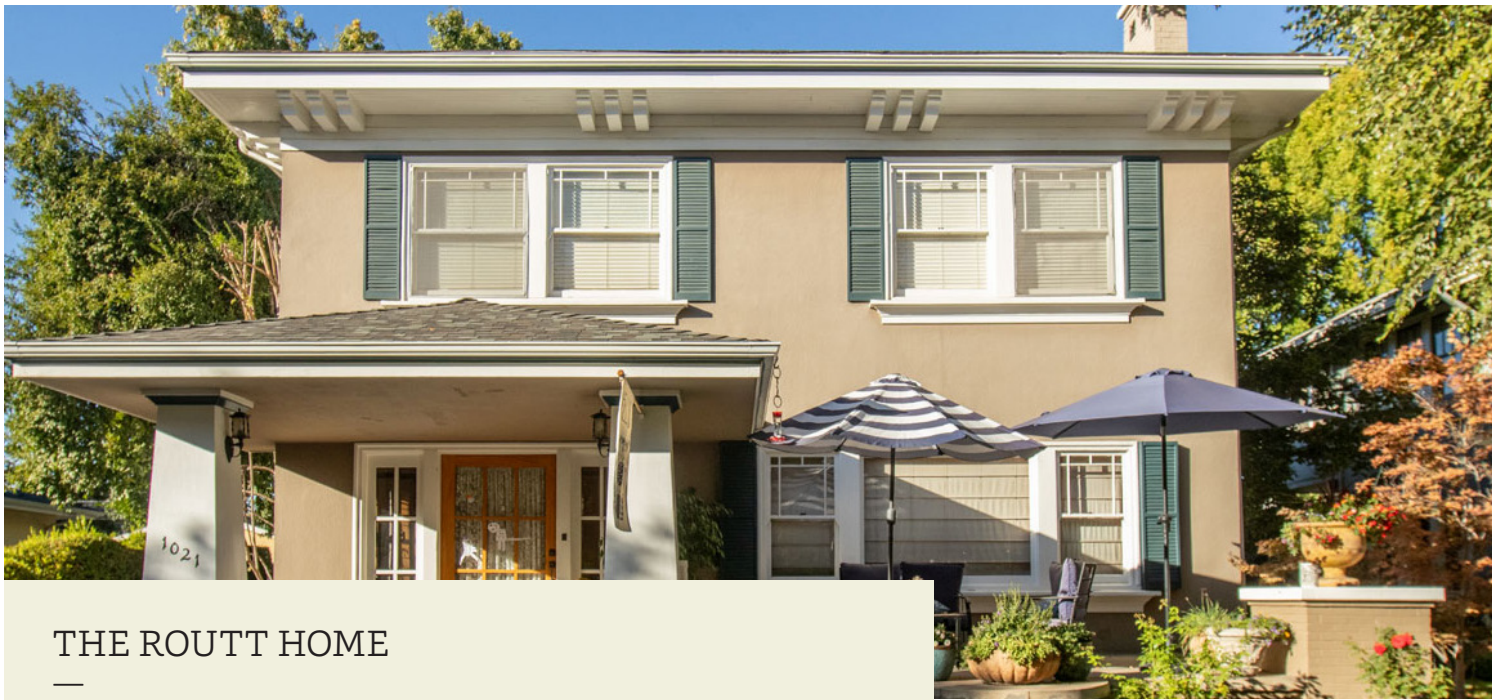
The kitchen has been renovated with new backsplash tiles. The cabinets are original and have been redone.

The bathroom has been renovated. The tile was added to the shower and under the mirror.

The master bedroom was two rooms but has been renovated to become one large room. It now includes a clawfoot soaking tub that opens to a view of the backyard.

The backyard has been completely redone by the homeowner and includes two gazebos for relaxing while cooking on the grill.

The shade house was added a few years back and includes several beautiful cacti collected by the homeowner who is an avid gardener.



THE ROUTT HOME

1021 E. Cambridge Avenue

This Craftsman home was built by Virgil Routt owner of Routt Lumber company in 1922 and is listed in the Porter Tract Historic District Registry. Craftsman style, also known as Arts and Crafts, was popular between 1905 and the mid-1930s. In response to the machine dominated industrial era, the Arts and Crafts movement was an aesthetic affirmation of what could be produced with human hands. The original 1922 news article announcing the residence's completion and features, "Modern Home is Erected on Porter Tract," is available for viewing in the kitchen. Unfortunately, Routt lumber company succumbed to bankruptcy in the early 1930s as many companies did during the Great Depression and the home was sold.

The entire home has oak hardwood floors with mahogany inlay borders. Twelve-foot ceilings in the spacious living room and formal dining room feature stunning gumwood crown moldings and wainscoting. Imported from the Southeastern United States. Gumwood is featured in all the woodwork downstairs and matched in the recent kitchen remodel.

In the living room, the tapered columns, straight lines of the expansive natural gumwood fireplace make a bold masculine statement. The sturdy fireplace

corbels were reproduced in the remodeled kitchen cabinetry. Two unique features of the home are the working original radiant heat pump system that has provided warmth to occupants for over 100 years and 60 windows for cooling which speaks to the fact of no central air in 1922! Beveled glass pocket doors divide the living and formal dining rooms and were designed to be closed at the meal's conclusion so the family could retire to the living room while the dining table was cleared by the house maid. The floor button to call the servants was located under the dining table but was removed when floor repairs were done.

A special interest of the homeowners has been hosting foreign exchange students. Note the "International Student Tree" in the dining room. Cultivating our family's interest in world history, culture, and language led us to host 27 foreign exchange students from 11 countries. Wonderful exchange programs through Rotary International, Fresno/Münster Sister City Program, Fresno Pacific University, and Fresno State University provided the platform to develop these long-lasting relationships. Our "International Tree," adorned with the country flags and student

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photos, is a tribute to the young ambassadors who enriched us in multiple ways and will always be considered family. Countries hosted include Austria, Bosnia, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, India, Japan, Sweden, Tajikistan, and Tunisia.

Beveled glass French doors lead from the dining room to the breakfast, kitchen and laundry areas, which were combined in the recent remodel. Gunwood cabinets with tapered columns and corbels match the woodwork on the fireplace and the large island lends to an open concept for “foodies” to gather and cook. The original laundry chute (of which many childhood stories have been told) can be seen in the laundry area.

The closed wood staircase opens to a central landing providing access to four spacious bedrooms. The front two bedrooms, connected with French doors, is the former terrain of three sons, but has been “aired out” and transitioned into guest rooms. The bedroom with the crib and trundle is now “reserved” for grandbaby sleepovers! A much-needed bath was added to the master bedroom in 2004. Finally, the landing bathroom, remodeled in 2022, boasts of the original cast iron tub and tile floor.

As you exit out the back door note the original servants’ quarters consistent with the style of the home. The location of the covered-up murphy bed can still be seen on the west wall.

This incredible home has seen various owners over its 100 year life span. The original owners, Virgil and Margaret Routt, lived in the home from 1922-1930. They were followed by Roy Peleg (1930-1942), John and Angela Mon Pere (1942-1965), Joseph and Patricia Mueller (1965-1984), and Fred Vierra (1983-1988). The present homeowners purchased the home at that time and have lived in it ever since.

Happy Holidays and we hope you enjoy a glimpse of this “Grand Madame” home.



SHRINE OF ST. THERESE

855 E. Floradora Avenue

St. Therese's Parish was established in Fresno in 1919 as Our Lady of Victory Parish. The first pastor, Father Martin Cody Keating, took over in June 1919, shortly after the completion of his duties as a Chaplain during World War I. It is said that Father Keating chose the name "Our Lady of Victory" in thanksgiving for our victory in that war.

Planning for the new parish had begun years before, when Msgr. John M. McCarthy, then pastor of St. John's Parish, realized that the city of Fresno would need several more parishes to serve the future population. The first Mass in the parish was celebrated on June 29, 1919 in the Dan C. Desmond home at 845 Echo Avenue. Records list 30 parishioners in attendance. Four lots were purchased at North Fulton (now Wishon) and Floradora Streets on November 12, between 1919 and March 16, 1920. By September 1921 a two-story building was built and opened for classes and services.

On May 2, 1926, formal dedication services for the completed church, The Shrine of St. Therese Church, located at Floradora near Wishon were held. A marble statue of St. Therese was unveiled and blessed. The statue was sculptured by the artisans of Lisieux, France, from a six-foot block of marble from the famous quarries near Olympia, Greece. It was shipped to Fresno via the Panama Canal.

During the Depression years, although financially stagnate, the parish grew in church members and students. The church, which had been built "out in the suburbs," now served a full-fledged urban area.

Msgr. James G. Dowling took charge as administrator of the parish whose facilities were strained to the bursting point. In accepting this challenge, Msgr. Dowling adopted a "five-year plan" of expansion and debt reduction. The parish had now grown to over 1,000 families. The first rooms of the new grammar school opened in September 1942. The long-standing parish debt was slowly reduced until in 1944, it was completely paid off.

Monsignor's five-year plan was completed in 1945 with the addition of the Anderson home at 727 Pine Avenue as a permanent convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Sisters of St. Joseph left in 1975 but the school remained open staffed by dedicated individuals committed to the parish and students of St. Therese. The school remained open until 1985. The school buildings are now used for CCD and church organizations and events. The Msgr Peterson Hall

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located on grounds of the east side of the church was once the location of the kindergarten classroom and a small church hall. Inside the hall, the wood wall paneling and beautiful stained glass compliments the inside beauty of its church.

The current church was built in 1956 by the Long and Needham Construction Company. Architect Vincent Buckley of San Francisco designed a Romanesque-Mission structure of reinforced steel concrete with a tile roof. Richard W. Jung, an interior designer from Los Angeles, employed Mr. Tedesci, an artist from New York, to plan the inside of the church. Fifty thousand pounds of marble were used in St. Therese's Church. The marble was processed in Italy and shipped in huge blocks to the United States by water freight.

The church's interior includes 50,000 pounds of marble of different types and colors shipped from Italy. The altar area alone has five different types of marble. It houses a relic of St. Therese donated by Mother Agnes of Jesus (Pauline Martin), a sister of the saint. The Vatican can only give such pieces to the parishes. (In 2012, thieves broke in through rare French stained glass windows to steal the relic, and thousands of dollars in precious metals including some brass clips from robes. The items were eventually found with the help of the Tower community.) There are also many beautiful statues, paintings and other images on the altar and side chapels. Church materials describe it as the first church in the world dedicated to the Little Flower.

The glass mosaic windows were made by the family of Gabriel Loire in Chartres, France. Only eight of the windows were delivered and installed at the time of the building's first Mass; the other windows were aboard ships delayed in 1956 through the Suez Canal. Unlike ordinary stained glass, the windows are made of pieces of glass 1 1/2 inches thick, cut like gems to give depth and a variety of shades to the colors as sunlight moves through the panes. Bariel Loire designed the windows himself, and the largest of them is the beautiful rose window over the main entrance of the church.

Today the Shrine of St. Therese continues to serve the community. Although the school no longer exists on the property, masses and other events serve the parishioners in the surrounding neighborhood as well as those who have moved away but continue to think of the church as their own.

Adapted from the Shrine of St. Therese website, Fresno Bee.