

### A Brief History of the Petrie House

The picturesque house at 842 Second Street has been classified as a Tudor-Cotswold Revival-style residence by the architect who inventoried downtown's buildings in the early 1990s.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the building, however, may be the builder himself and how the house was created.

Construction of the house was begun by Mr. Petrie probably sometime in the 1920s. Mr. Petrie's daughter has described its construction:

“Dad made a mold and then cast each cement block by hand, one by one. It took a long time to build our house.”

Natalie also described that in casting one particular block, he embedded in the mold, colored pebble reading “1931”, and used the block in constructing the chimney. That date of completion can be read today from the south side of the house.

The Petrie family lived in the home for over a decade. Family members included Mr. and Mrs. Petrie, their son Don, and teen-age daughter Natalie. Both Don and Natalie graduated from the newly built San Dieguito High School.

During World War II, Don, a handsome young man, joined the Armed Forces. Unfortunately he was one of several local boys killed in the war.

The cement brick house, in which the family lived, was to be Mr. Petrie's masterpiece. His other creations were not impressive. That may be because he scoured the countryside gathering “scrap material” which he used to build dwellings south of their home. Those structures were torn down a few years ago and replaced with a two-story stucco building.

The cement brick house, however, has been renovated in recent years and today serves as a doctor's office.

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