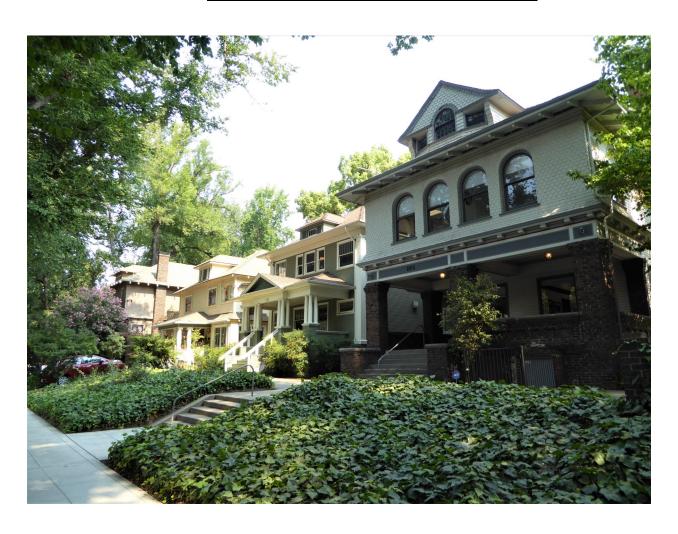
2.2.13 Capitol Mansions Historic District



Ordinance # 2004-009 March 23, 2004 Updated by Ordinance #: 2019-0054 December 10, 2019

Capitol Mansions Historic District

The Capitol Mansions Historic District is so named because of the large, stately residences that line Capitol Avenue (originally M Street) and L Street. When Sacramento's street grid was laid out in 1848, M Street was designed to be the city's widest, measuring 100 feet across. With the expansion of Capitol Park in 1872 and the completion of the Capitol building in 1974, M Street became the primary thoroughfare that led directly to the Capitol from the east and the west. As a result, the street was known as both M Street and Capitol Avenue throughout the late nineteenth century.

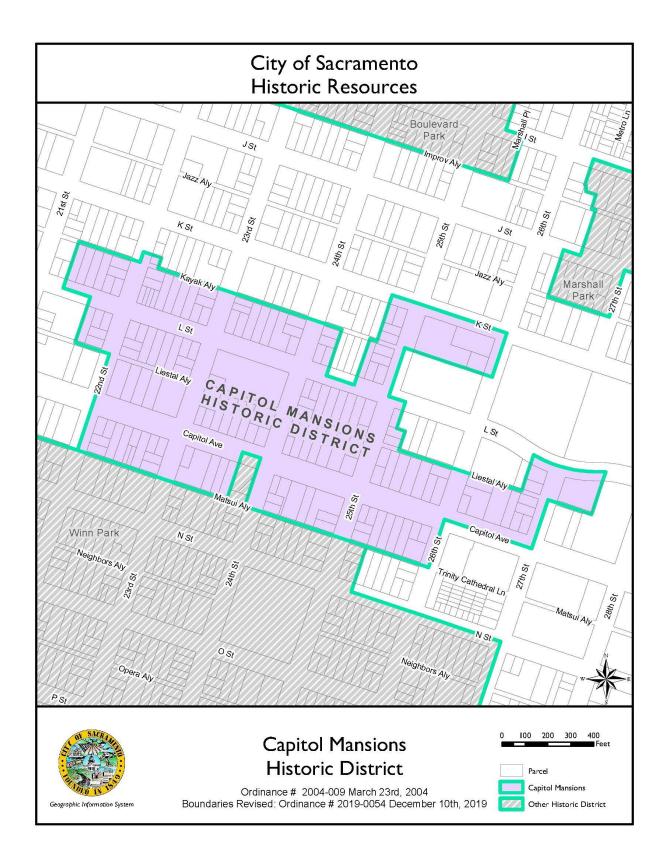
Development in the Capitol Mansions neighborhood was limited until the last decades of the nineteenth century, when Sacramento's affluent middle- and upper-class residents began to migrate out of the increasingly overcrowded and industrialized neighborhoods near the city's waterfront embarcadero and West End business district to new neighborhoods that were emerging on undeveloped tracts to the south and east. Street construction and improvement projects spurred the initial period of residential development to these areas. The process of extending M Street eastward, between the Capitol grounds and the County Hospital on "the Stockton road," began in 1874, attracting some of the area's first residents.4 The introduction of a streetcar line down M Street between 15th and 28th streets in 1890 further accelerated development toward the end of the century by offering residents easy and efficient transportation to the businesses and workplaces downtown. In 1895 the neighborhood was a patchwork of undeveloped parcels and generously-sized, wood frame dwellings, many with stables and small cottages for working-class residents located along the alleys that bisected each city block. By the start of the twentieth century, M Street had become one of "the very best streets in Sacramento," praised by the *Sacramento Union* newspaper for its "many handsome residences," "improved transportation facilities," and "best type of pavement."

Meanwhile, Sacramento's eastward growth had begun to encroach upon the ruins of Sutter's Fort, the settlement where the city had begun in the 1840s. By the 1880s, the fort had been abandoned and neglected for several decades, and the majority of the complex had severely deteriorated or collapsed. While the parcels in the Capitol Mansions neighborhood to the west were filling up with new residences, the lots to the south of the fort remained Non-Contributing fields. The city's street grid, which had been laid out in 1848, seemed to anticipate the fort's demise, cutting headlong through the fort's footprint so that its southwest corner protruded into L Street.

The period of significance for the Capitol Mansions Historic District coincides with its development into one of Sacramento's most prestigious neighborhoods, beginning with the extension of M Street from Capitol Park to Stockton Boulevard in 1874 and ending in 1939 when streetcar service on M Street stopped and city's affluent residents began migrating to new suburbs further from the original 1848 street grid.

<u>Architectural Styles:</u> Italianate, Stick/Eastlake, Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Shingle, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Classic Box, Beaux Arts, Gothic Revival, Prairie, Craftsman, Tudor

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Capitol Mansions Historic District Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

Number	Street	Parcel Number Status	
1115 1116 1117 1118 1121 1211 1212 1214 1215 1311 1315	22ND ST	007-0094-001 007-0092-014 007-0094-022 007-0092-015 007-0094-021 007-0153-002 007-0151-010 007-0153-001 007-0154-002 007-0154-001	Contributing Contributing Contributing Non-Contributing Contributing
1116 1117 1119 1120 1121 1212 1214 1215 1217 1227 1301 1308 1311	23RD ST	007-0094-011 007-0096-019 007-0096-018 007-0094-012 007-0096-024 007-0153-011 007-0155-001 007-0155-018 007-0155-017 007-0156-002 007-0154-011 007-0156-025 007-0154-012	Contributing Non-Contributing Contributing Contributing Non-Contributing Contributing
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